An early 'history' of Amherst Township was published in the '*Amherst Free Press*', beginning *Feb. 26, 1876*:

(WITH CORRECTIONS, in 'white')

History of Amherst Township.

The history of this township is worthy a more extended record than it has heretofore received. Its pioneers were men and women of sterling worth, whose noble daring and patient endurance challenge our admiration. The privations and hardships of pioneer life are poorly comprehended by those of us who were never subjected to them. Sixty years ago, it required no ordinary amount of courage and fortitude to leave the comforts and luxuries of civilized society, and plunge into an unbroken wilderness, hundreds of miles away from kindred and acquaintance, and there carve out a home in the midst of giant forests, having for neighbors wild beasts, and savage human beings. The undertaking from the very beginning encountered many formidable obstacles, before which men and women of less sterner purpose would have shrunk in dismay.

Sixty years ago, few facilities for inland travel existed. Not a mile of navigable canal had been begun, not a foot of iron rail had been laid, or perhaps had so much as that been thought of. At this period, emigration from the east to Ohio, then known as the far west, was performed by the slow plodding of ox-teams attached to carts in summer, and to sleds in winter. Occasionally an emigrant was able to procure a span of horses with which to make the journey; but such instances were rare. Twenty, thirty, and sometimes forty days were occupied in reaching the place of destination. After leaving the public highways, which were few and even bad in those days, the emigrant was obliged to go ahead of his team with axe in hand, and for miles to cut a road for the following team. At length, after wearisome toil, the spot selected for his future home is gained, on the bank of some stream, or near some gushing spring. Now he and his family begin to realize their true situation. They find themselves houseless, surrounded by no sympathizing neighbors:—all around them is one vast solitude. Many a strong heart, that in after-years fought valiantly every difficulty and obstacle, has confessed that the first few weeks of his wilderness life was one of painful loneliness, so oppressive that tears in spite of every effort to restrain them, would flow unbidden.

Such, we may fancy to have been the condition and feelings of some of the first settlers of Amherst. Most of them came from populous sections in the older States, where they were privileged with the refining institutions of learning and religion, and the pleasures of social intercourse. But on pitching their tents in the wilds of this region, they were suddenly deprived of them all. They were obliged to tax their inventive genius to its utmost, in order to provide for the bare conveniences of life. Genius was often fertile in expedients, and equal to almost any emergency, as we may have occasion to show in the course of our historical sketches.

At the time the first settler came into Amherst, it formed a portion of Black River, a tract of country nearly as large as some of the present counties in the State. Besides the present township of Black River, it embraced, Amherst, Brownhelm, Henrietta, and Russia, and belonged to the county of Huron. "Black River" twp. established 1817

Jacob Shoupe, born in Pennsylvania, January, 12th, 1778, is believed to have been the first who settled in the present limits of Amherst. He came in 1811, or in 1812, purchasing a piece of land about one and a half miles north of the village of Amherst. He brought with him a hired man, by trade a carpenter, who built for Mr. Shoupe a saw-mill, on the site where Dute's mill stands. At the time the mill was built, Beaver Creek was a considerable

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stream, sufficient to propel the above mill. This mill was built in 1813, followed soon after by a grist-mill, erected by the same enterprising owner. Before this mill was built, the settlers in this region were under the necessity of getting their milling done, either at Chagrin Falls 48 miles east, or at Green Creek some 30 miles west. Those going to the Falls, often took their grain in small boats on the lake, and with labor and sometimes with much danger, succeeded in getting their grinding done. It not unfrequently happened that their boats were capsized, and the grain lost. To either of these mills it usually took about three days labor to go and return.

--- additional corrections ---

JACOB SHUPE (and the 1810 “Beaver Creek colony”)

The '*Amherst Free Press*' *1876 history* neglected to mention, that -- in the year 1810 -- prior to moving into the boundaries of (later-named) Amherst Township -- Shupe initially settled north of this Township's boundaries. (That omission resulted in much “historical” misinformation about the entire *first pioneer-settlement* of this area.)

Jacob Shupe was originally from Westchester Co., Pa.; however, by the year 1805 he had relocated to the Beaver County, Penn. area, (specifically, in Little Beaver Twp., there). While in Beaver County, he became acquainted with the other local mill operators nearby, including Joab Woodruff (whose father-in-law, Abraham Powers -- a master-millwright -- is credited with designing numerous mills in Pa. and Ohio). In 1810, Woodruff (and his brother-in-law, John Laylin, Sr.) likewise moved to Ohio, and briefly resided in this vicinity near Shupe.

Four other men (and their families) from the Beaver County, Penn. area, additionally relocated to this area of Ohio: George Kelso, Ralph Lyon, William Martin, and also Jonathan Seelye (a professional-surveyor).

Obviously, when they learned about the availability of this newly for-sale, undeveloped land for settlement --- **they mutually decided to relocate to this area** --- **therefore, as a “*colony*”**. [Even the name '*Beaver Creek*' here, was said to have been designated by these same men, mainly in honor of their former Pa. location (not “beavers”).]

And another Pennsylvania man, Joseph Quigley, accompanied them here --- he also seems to have been affiliated with Beaver County. (James Quigley of Big Beaver Twp., was a neighbor of Abraham Powers.) Joseph brought his wife and children to north-central Ohio in 1811, and settled a short distance east of Wm. Martin on the Lake shore. [A decade later, Quigley relocated into Amherst Twp.]

So, that entire group of former Pennsylvania families resided within less than a mile radius, in this area of Ohio. (And those families were never nearly as socially isolated as some of the “inland” pioneers, here.)

By 1812, Shupe moved again --- but just a short distance --- to barely within the boundary of the area of later-named '*Amherst Township*' (originally named “***Town 6**, in Range 18”*). **But prior to his move across that boundary-line** (and to the site of the future mill) **--- the “Beaver Creek settlement” was entirely within “*Town* 7 , Range 18* ”,** (which, now, is almost totally encompassed within the city of Lorain).

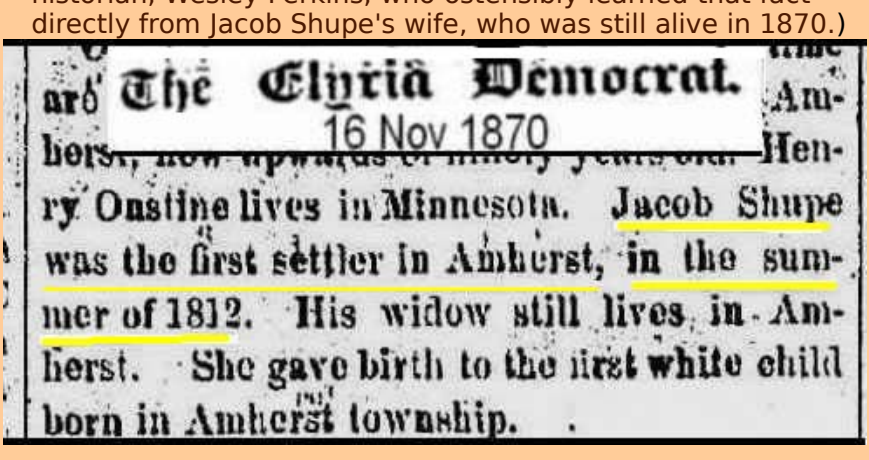
[* - “Town” meant '*Township*' -- not '*village*'.]

The local-historians during the subsequent two centuries, failed to specifically acknowledge the 1810 “Beaver Creek settlement” (and which, rightfully, should also be known as the “Beaver Creek colony”). [However, that original “Beaver Creek settlement” should not be confused with the later village of Amherst --- which was established by men from Becket, Mass. (including Josiah Harris, who, until recently, was consistently and accurately attributed to be the true “*founder of Amherst*”, by prior local-historians).]

Also notice: the *1876* '*history*' distinctly states that Shupe moved into (later-named) **Amherst Township, “*in 1811, or in 1812*”, obviously meaning that the actual year was disputed.** (And another, different, *1876* history, by W.W. Boynton, rephrases that event as being “*as early as 1811*”-- again inferring that the exact year of Shupe's move was undetermined.)

But, an earlier (1870) newspaper item specifically indicates that Shupe moved to his final location, in the ***“Summer of 1812”*.**

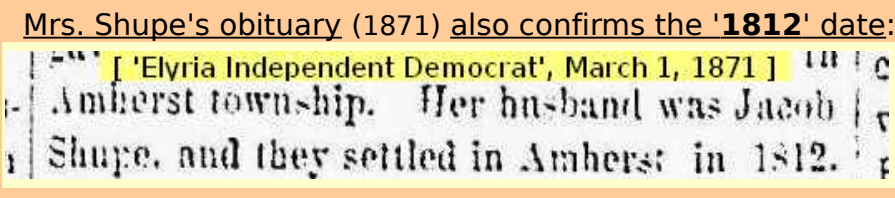
(This statement, in the 1870 '*Elyria Democrat*', was reportedly provided to the newspaper by the earliest-known Amherst historian, Wesley Perkins, who ostensibly learned that fact directly from Jacob Shupe's wife, who was still alive in 1870.)



The Elyria Democrat.
16 Nov 1870

...Henry Onstine lives in Minnesota. Jacob Shupe was the first settler in Amherst, in the summer of 1812. His widow still lives in Amherst. She gave birth to the first white child born in Amherst township.

Mrs. Shupe's obituary (1871) also confirms the '**1812**' date:



['Elyria Independent Democrat', March 1, 1871]

...Amherst township. Her husband was Jacob Shupe, and they settled in Amherst in 1812.

The shortly-later uncertainty seems to have arisen from the birth-year of Betsey Shupe (attributed to have been that “*first white child*” born within Amherst Township's boundaries).

Betsey's birth-year was said (in later family-tradition) to be “1811” (which would obviously indicate that the Shupe family must have moved across that boundary-line in 1811).

However, in actuality, births were not officially recorded here, at that early time. In fact, there was a very common tendency to add a year-or-so, onto a person's age, in their later years. (And as a result --- old tombstone inscriptions are not always reliable sources of birth-years; nor are some later-entered Bible-records, either.)

Therefore, the “*1812* ” year (as documented by both of those earlier sources) is probably **the true year of Shupe's move to the mill site**.

But, regardless of the precise year of Shupe's move into this Twp.'s boundaries --- this event should never have later been considered the year of the '*founding*' of Amherst ---- instead, it is merely the year of its “first pioneer-settlement”.

The true 'founding' of this geographical township (as “*Town 6, Range 18* ”) technically occurred before 1807, by the *Connecticut Land Company*. And the actual 'founding' of the village, itself, essentially began in 1814 when Josiah Harris purchased a large area of land here (and he later established a village-plat upon it).

[Long-time Amherst historian Valerie Eppley Jenkins-Gerstenberger emphatically cautioned against referring to the “first-settlement” as being the same as a 'founding'; but she was ultimately ignored --- and now (2018) some local marker-plaques falsely display an “1811” 'founding' date.]

There also seems to be a discrepancy with the year when Shupe (and his likely business-partners*) had completed the first mill, here. (* - Typically, the first local mills of this area, were co-owned by several men in the community.) The construction of the mill had probably begun in 1812, when Shupe was residing in his new log-cabin home (directly-adjacent to the mill site, so he could oversee the mill's security and be its main operator when it was finally functional). However, historians were in disagreement about the year the mill actually began operating --- but “1813” seems to be the consensus. Historians also disagree if its very first use was that of a 'saw' mill, or a 'grist' mill --- but perhaps “grist”, due to the steady need for (quickly perishable) milled grain.

There is a recent theory being promulgated, asserting that almost immediately after the saw-mill became operational, Shupe had a frame-structure house built for his own family. But a re-analysis of old tax-records (and etc.) instead seems to indicate that Shupe's first framed-house was not built until circa-1821, (when it was separately taxed and valued at $475, which suggests a very sizeable structure). [Later, probably after the circa-1838 division of the Shupe farm, a smaller house was built, but farther away from the mill --- more than 1/10th-mile, (perhaps built in 1846, when its 15ac. parcel's $47 tax-value raised to $339).]

In reference to the statement in this '1876 history', that the “*Black River Township*” district had already been created “*at the time the first settler came into Amherst*” --- however, the “Black River township” judicial-district was not officially established until the year 1817 (when it also encompassed the other adjacent geographical areas, including later-named 'Amherst Twp.'). Prior to 1817, all of those specific “*towns*“(meaning the modern-day 'townships') instead fluctuated under the civil-jurisdictions of the '*Vermillion*' judicial-district and the '*Dover*' district.

[But, apparently due to that erroneous 1876 statement, (etc.), there was a much later attempt to attribute Shupe as initially residing within the “Russia Twp.” area --- which was clearly never true --- because that later-named “Russia Twp.” was not included within that judicial “*Black River township*” district until '1817' --- seven years after Shupe (and the other members of the “Beaver Creek colony” had already arrived into '*Town*(ship) *7*' (the final-named 'Black River' Township).]

In clarification of the assertion that “*by necessity*” the “*settlers in this region*” (prior to Shupe's mill) often traveled more than 30 miles for milling their grain --- however, there were already other operational grist-mills half that distant (on 'Old Woman's Creek', etc.). [But, only one pioneer family supposedly resided in this *“region”* within the boundaries of Amherst Twp. from 1812 until 1815 – the Shupe family. (A few years later, the mills in Elyria were built, and were more-convenient for the “*South ridge road*” settlers, here.)]

See the section about Ephraim Towne, for more about Shupe's mill site (and the later “*Schneider's mills*” and “*Dute's mills*”, there).

{The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *March 4, 1876* }

After Mr. Shupe had provided a mill for preparing material for incoming settlers, with which to build their houses, and another for grinding their bread corn, his enterprise suggested the necessity and propriety of providing the means for stimulating new settlers for their hard labor. In those early days, ardent spirits were considered the *sine qui non* of human happiness, the essential element of true hospitality, and the potent agent for successful labor. Without rum, or its equivalent, it was deemed impracticable to put up a log cabin, to clear an acre of ground, to harvest a field of grain, or husk a load of corn. Every conceivable occasion was graced with its presence; whether a wedding, or a funeral, or the birth of a child; whether a social call of a neighbor, or the religious visit of a minister, the bottle was the most important and distinguished personage in the gathering. It was the tutelar divinity in every household: the presiding genius of every social gathering, a skillful physician, and a consoling minister.

Mr. Shupe was keen-sighted enough to see this, and therefore, in 1815, he started a whiskey distillery. This enterprise was soon followed by several others of the same character. Michael Onstine, Ira Tillotson, Nathan Edson, each running one of these stills. In 1838 Elias Mann erected a still and gave the local name to the part of Amherst known as "Whiskeyville." As there was little money at that time in circulation in this region, the business of making whiskey was about the only one open to the settlers whereby they could replenish their exhausted treasuries. Whiskey became the circulating medium,—the legal tender of trade. Many a note given for merchandise, was made payable in whiskey, within the year, accompanied with the saving clause, "Providing that the crop of grain should be sufficient to warrant its distillation." An enquiry,—what what was the end of these distilleries, whether they became dissipated, or not?, elicited the fact that they were all sober men, qualified, however, by the remark, that at that time, all men drank whiskey, but seldom to excess.

Mr. Shupe was killed in 1832, June 9, by a stick of timber falling on him, while engaged in repairing his mill. His age was 54 years, 4 months, and 27 days. His widow survived him till February 23, 1871, at the advanced age of 90 years, 11 months and 3 days.

[The statement about Shupe's circa-1813 sawmill providing lumber for the other settlers "*to build their houses*" --- that shouldn't be misinterpreted as meaning that framed-houses became common here, soon afterward. "Log cabin" homes continued to be the predominant structures. There were only two or three framed-houses built within this entire Township, circa-1821. And, by the year 1830 -- although there were a total of 91 households (per the 1830 census) -- only 6 of those homes were frame houses (per tax records).]

{The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *March 11, 1876* }

~~Following Mr. Shupe~~, was the Onstine family. The precise year of their coming to Amherst, is uncertain; but from some events connected with their history, we conclude it must have been prior to ~~1814~~. Of this conjecture, the reader can form his own opinion from the following brief sketch of the family.

Frederick Onstine was a native of Pennsylvania, and of German descent. He removed to Canada, at an early day and took up a tract of land, purposing to make a permanent home in the Dominion. He had seven sons, Daniel, Frederick, George, Henry, John, Michael and Philip. But war arising between England and this country in 1812, Mr. Onstine abandoned his property in Canada, to avoid impressment into the English military service.

He made his way, first to Buffalo, ~~and thence to Amherst~~, where a number of his sons enlisted into the American army. Mr. Onstine's love for freedom induced him to quit the comforts of a home in Canada, for a backwood's life in Ohio, and as an appreciation of his and his sons' devotion to the cause of the country, on the suggestion of Hon. Mr. Whittlesy, then in Congress from this district, a considerable tract of land, believed to have been nine hundred and sixty acres, or six quarter sections, was devoted to ~~him~~ them. The father settled ~~on the south western part of the tract~~ near,—his son Daniel, on lands, we think, embracing Clough's Stone quarry,—Frederick on lands now owned by Joseph Miller; —George, on the farm now owned by Mr. Baumhardt;—John, on lands East of Clough's quarry;—Michael, near his father. Philip we think lived either with his father, or on the same ~~tract~~ lot.

corrections: The Onstine family probably arrived to Ohio in 1816 or 1817. (They resided in N.Y. State until at least a year after the War-of-1812 was over.) And the land they were granted a decade later, in the 1820s, (for their military-service while in N.Y.), was in north-western Ohio --- that 'grant' was independent from the land they had already purchased, here.

{The next item is from *March 18, 1876*. (abridged) }

The Onstine burial ground, where a considerable number of the family are resting from their toils, is located in one of the most romantic and sequestered spots that can be found in Amherst. It is on a small sandy mound at the summit of a range of sand stone about 30 rods in a southerly direction from Clough's South quarry. It is a part of the Onstine domain, hidden by the primeval forest, so that it is not easily found.

That item also included the names-and-dates from some of the headstones at that burial-ground. **(However, a century later, due to vandalism and grave-robbing, that cemetery was officially declared "abandoned" in 1960 -- and all the graves there, were allegedly relocated into the Kendeigh Corners Cemetery.)**

[This '*1876 history*' omitted mentioning Elizabeth Onstine (who had married Joseph Coleman); and Christina Onstine, who married Williamson Crawford, here in 1824, (and -- circa that same time -- the '*Cleveland Herald*' news reported that Christina was accidentally killed by one of her own brothers during his physical-altercation with Elizabeth's husband --- but that newspaper later printed a retraction stating that Christina had never actually been injured.)]

The next item (from *March 11, 1876*) makes a very brief mention of Ezekiel (not "*Ezra*") Crandall; and Chileab Smith (who settled near later-named "Whiskeyville" corners). Several members of both of those families were afterward interred in a small cemetery, there. However, in 1959, that cemetery was obstructing the widening of Leavitt Road --- so **all of the graves there,** were also allegedly **moved to the Kendeigh Corners Cemetery**.

[See the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History' for more about the families of Chileab Smith and Eb Whiton (formerly from Berkshire County, Mass.).]

About the same time that the Onstine family came to Amherst, came also Stephen Cable, ~~Ezra~~ Ezekiel Crandall, Chiliab Smith, and Ebenezer Whiton, who located on South Ridge. We have failed to learn the history of these settlers—their time of coming, the section from whence they emigrated, and the length of time they lived in Amherst.

1815; Twp. 'lot 33'?

Stephen Cable, we judge, kept an inn, as a stopping place for the early settlers until they could provide themselves with temporary shelters on their own lands. In conversing with a goodly number of those who came in prior to 1820, and ?~~some at a later period~~, they mention Mr. Cable's as the place where their families were left, until they could erect a cabin for them. His house was a lodge in the wilderness for wayfaring men. [Cable moved into Henrietta Twp. by 1820. (died circa-1823)]

The next settler, in the order of time, was Ezekiel Barnes, who was born in Worcester county, Mass., January 15, 1770. He afterwards lived in Berkshire county, in the same State. In 1815, he left Massachuetts, and settled in Augusta, Oneida county, New York, where he remained two years. In September 1817, he started in company with his son-in-law, Roswell Crocker, for Ohio. He took with him a three horse team, and wagon in which were stowed his family and household effects. Arriving at Buffalo, he decided to put the goods on board of a sloop bound for Cleveland; the family to go by land. The name of the vessel by which he shipped was the "Perseverance."

The family of Mr. Barnes consisted of himself, wife, son-in-law, and eight children—two sons and six daughters, whose names were Ezekiel G., Sardius D., Palina, Fanny, Amanda, Lovina, D. Juliette and Charlotte. [Palina married Roswell Crocker; Fanny, David Smith, (father of our worthy judge of Probate); Amanda, Warren Smith (who joined the Mormons, and was killed at the raid on Nauvoo); Juliette, Ira Leslie; and Charlotte, Montville Winton.]

The team made the journey from Buffalo to Cleveland in good time. Ezekiel took passage on the Perseverance to look after the goods, at the request of its commander. But after leaving port, he ascertained the Captain was short of hands, and that his object in desiring Mr. Barnes to take passage with him was for his help as a seaman.

The vessel was a poor sailer, and to add to their slow progress, it encountered a September gale and head wind which compelled the Commander to put back and twice take refuge for safety in the port of Erie. The little Shallop was tossed up and down on the lake for fourteen days. Finding it impossible to get into Cleveland, it entered Grand River where it was decided to land Mr. Barnes' household effects. The delay of the Perseverance caused a rumor to be started that she had gone to the bottom, which saddened the hearts of the family who were in Cleveland waiting her arrival.

On landing at Grand river, Ezekiel hastened to Cleveland and relieved the family of their fears. Taking the team, he returned to the vessel for the goods, and coming back to Cleveland, the family started for Amherst, whither they safely arrived on the seventeenth.

Mr. Barnes settled on lot 43 and lived on it fourteen years. He then sold the farm and purchased lot 56, the same, Ezekiel G. Barnes now occupies, Mr. Barnes died in 1851 aged ninety one years.

Having given the record of Ezekiel Barnes, we shall follow it up with the history of Ezekiel G. Barnes, (son of the Elder Barnes), who was born in Washington, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, Sept. 1st, 1799. He has now living four sons, Gilbert H., Louisa E., wife of James Gawn, G. Monroe, Henry D., and Sardius N. These were all born in Amherst. Mr. Barnes resides on Middle ridge, on lot 57, which has been in his possession for forty years. On coming into Amherst, he brought with him a flint lock rifle, which he regarded of priceless value. He, like Nimrod of old, became a mighty hunter. At the time of which we are writing, game was abundant. Wild turkeys, ducks, and deer, could be seen almost any day, and were slaughtered by hundreds annually. For a number of years they furnished a large portion of the animal food eaten by the first settlers. Venison and turkey in their season were as common as beef and pork of the present day. When Mr. Barnes had disciplined his hand to shoot without rest, a deer stood a poor chance of escape when once he drew a bead on him. A short time since he gave the writer a sketch of his hunting excursions at that early day, and the success he met with in deer hunting. He stated that his first day's hunting was on Sunday during which he killed two deer, and that he killed during the season, some eight or nine. The next year he was much more successful, the number killed being eighty five. The third year he says he killed one hundred and twenty deer. He relates the following somewhat romantic incident as occurring on one of his hunting excursions. Having left home in the afternoon, wandering in quest of game, night overtook him while at a considerable distance from his house. He concluded not to return, but camp out for the night as he had frequently done. Gathering together a good supply of dry fuel, and kindling a fire, he sat down on a log for his night's rest. He had not sat long, before he heard in the distance the cry of a human voice, as he believed. Soon he heard again, and then again. The voice sounded like that of a woman, and he at once concluded to go in search of her, naturally believing some one was lost in the woods. Gathering up a large bundle of hickory bark, and making a torch, he started in the direction from whence the voice at intervals continued to be heard. He wandered over fallen trees and through tangled brushwood, for half a mile or more, where he was brought face to face with a woman sitting on horse back, utterly lost in the woods. He thinks a gladder woman than she, he never saw, when she became conscious of a guide to the place of her destination.

This woman was Mrs. Porter, the grand mother of our townsman, Samuel Porter. Her husband was sick, and she, needing help, had left home in the morning with the intention of going to Jacob Shupe's for one of his daughters. Mrs. Porter's home was in Elyria, but between there and Mr. Shupes there was only a blind trail, and by some means it was lost to Mrs Porter, and she was lost in the woods. Mr. Barnes being well acquainted with the direction to Mr. Shupe's, gallantly proffered his services to guide her thither. They were thankfully accepted. Arriving at the house, the horse was fed, and supper prepared for Mrs. Porter. Having been refreshed, and securing one of the daughters to accompany her, Mr. Barnes accompanied them to Elyria, whither they arrived before the dawn of day. He closed by saying that Mr. Porter lived only a short time after this event happened. Mr. Barnes is fruitful in reminiscences, which, did we not believe him a truthful man, we should be inclined to think them lively fancies, rather than facts.

{ The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *March 25, 1876*:}

Intimately connected with the Barnes' family, as before hinted, is the history of Roswell Crocker, who was born in Oneida county, N. Y., 1794, came to Amherst September, 1817, and settled on a part of lot No. 44. He had three sons and five daughters, all of whom, except Eliza Ann, wife of O. Barney, were born in Amherst. Alonzo and Lorenzo were twins, (the first pair born in the township); Arvilla, now Mrs. E. A. Turney; Fanny, wife of M. Luce; Huldah, wife of D. Fox; and Erastus.

Soon after the twins were born, Capt. John S. Reid, of Black River, hearing of the event, and having a curiosity to see them, came to Mr. Crocker's; and in the course of the interview, mentioned to Mrs. C. the fact that he was building a schooner which would soon be launched, and proposed to name it "The Twins," on condition that she should bring them with her on the day of the launch, and take them aboard the schooner, and remain on board, till the vessel should be launched. Accordingly on the day appointed, Mrs. Crocker and the twins made their appearance at Black River; but her timidity overcame the novelty, and prevented her going aboard, and thus the vessel failed to receive the proposed name, and therefore the Captain christened it "Ann," after the name of his wife.

Mr. Crocker lived in the township twenty-seven years; and then in 1844 removed to Lake county, O., where he died in 1868; aged 71. His widow is still alive; and retains a vivid recollection of persons and things to a remarkable degree. She has many reminiscences of events which occurred in the early settlement of the town. A short time since, she related the following annoyances from bears and wolves, which were so bold and impudent as to slaughter sheep and pigs at people's very doors. On one occasion the family heard an unusual commotion among the hogs in the early part of the evening. Mistrusting the cause, Mr. Crocker waked up old Buck, a large brindle house-dog, and sallied forth, accompanied by some of the family, to ascertain what was disturbing his porkers. Buck soon discovered an old bear sitting on the covering over a part of the sty, just ready to leap down and select a pig for his supper. But the fierce barking of the dog, and the menaces of the family, forced him to beat a hasty retreat. On another occasion, the howl of an approaching wolf was warning sufficient for Mr. Crocker to hastily extemporise an inclosure of rails, taken from the nearest fences, and collect his sheep within it, and thus he saved his sheep.

On another occasion they were warned of the near approach of wolves by the rattling of a bell worn by one of the sheep. Mr. Crocker made haste to gather his sheep into the fold; but the night did not permit him to count his flock. In the morning, two were missing, one of which was found partly devoured. A neighbor of Mr. Crocker, Eli Wallace, an old wolf trapper, set about to catch the "varmint," at his next visitation. Taking the torn carcass to a suitable spot, he thrust through it a stake into the ground, then set a powerful steel trap in whose jaws the wolf must be caught, if he should attempt to recover his prey. Every thing being satisfactorily arranged, Mr. Wallace returned, sanguine of success. On going to his trap the following morning he discovered that it had caught, not the sheep-stealing wolf, but Mr. Crocker's big spotted sow. The mighty jaws of steel had so mangled the bones of her leg, that it was found necessary to amputate the limb. From that time on, the poor animal was compelled to hobble on three feet, until the day of her slaughter.

The twin Crocker boys must have indeed been born the same year that Reid launched his schooner, '*Ann*' (1819). (And, apparently it was not uncommon at that general time, to have a baby aboard "for good luck" for a ship's first launch.)

[Unfortunately, the maritime records did not correctly attribute that boat as built by Reid -- nor the true year of its construction. Those records erroneously show it as built in "1821", by "F. Church". (Likewise, those same records err about another Black River vessel, the '*General Huntington*', built by Capt. James Day in 1818 -- not "F. Church" in "1819".) +Source: '*Elyria Courier*', 21 Sept 1847, item by "D.T.B."(Daniel T. Baldwin, Reid's son-in-law, an eye-witness to both launchings).]

Also arrived to Amherst Township "*in 1817 or 1818*": Thompson Blair (from Becket, Mass.); Reuben Allen (settled near "*Kirkbride's corners*"); Jeremiah Ferris; Stephen Johnson.

In 1818 Adoniram Webb, and his ~~son~~ father Reuben came to Amherst. Reuben took up a tract of land, at what is now known as Webb's corners. But for the sake of society, settled temporarily on a piece of land near Jacob Shupe, some four miles from their future home. During their sojourn at this point, one of their children sickened and died. The parents of the child very naturally desired that its body should be deposited on their own ground, four miles away, through an unbroken wilderness, the intervening road marked only by spotted trees. Mrs. Webb in her later years related this event to a creditable gentleman who furnished the particulars in this sketch of early history of Amherst. She said that Mr. Shupe's carpenter made a rude coffin in which the child was laid. There was neither funeral discourse, prayer, nor hymn over the departed little one; but it was arranged that Mr. Shupe should mount his horse and take the coffin on before him, and Mr. and Mrs. Webb were to follow him through the woods to the point selected for burial. Mr. Shupe was particularly fond of music, and was a very fair performer on the violin, and more than ordinarily good at whistling. Immediately on starting for the grave, he commenced whistling ~~Yankee Doodle~~, keeping it up with vigor until he reached the spot designated for the burial ground. He then assisted in digging the grave, the body was deposited in its little home, the earth thrown over it, and again mounting their horses, the trio commenced their return in the same order in which they had come out to their duty. They were no sooner under way, than Mr. Shupe again made the woods resound with his ~~Yankee Doodle~~, which he continued all the way home.

This was the first funeral in Amherst, and the beginning of the little cemetery seen by the traveler on a gentle slope one mile west of South Amherst village, on the right hand as he goes towards Henrietta hill. The parents and others of the family are sleeping beside this little one. The family burial ground is enclosed with a wooden fence, and excepted in the title deed of the present occupant of the farm.

Although '*1818*' seems to be the accurate year when this Webb family actually first resided upon their acreage at the south-western portion of the Township, (and which is currently within the village-limits of South Amherst) --- however, they had arrived to this general area, by 1816.
[Reuben, and his son Adoniram (born 1794, Berkshire Co., Mass.) were listed as 'voters' in "*Black River*" judicial-district in 1817; and the reported "funeral procession", here, was presumably for 8-month-old Adaline Webb, who died in March of 1816.]
Some of the subsequent local-histories say that the Webb family arrived to this vicinity in "*1814 or 1815* ", (although "1814" seems unlikely, when the ongoing War-of-1812 was still a deterrent to new settlement in this area.)
But --- even though the Webbs probably had come to this area in 1815, and acquired their "South Amherst" farm --- but they didn't technically 'settle' upon it, until circa-1818. Prior to that, they resided near Shupe, at the "Beaver Creek settlement", which was still almost entirely within '*Town*(ship) *7*'.

Therefore, that apparent discrepancy about the year when the Webb family moved into "*Amherst*" Twp., might technically be accurate --- if they initially, in 1815, resided in Shupe's vacated cabin within the boundaries of '***Town***(ship) ***7***' --- but later, circa-1818, they permanently relocated into '***Town***(ship) ***6***', (in the same manner as the Jacob Shupe family had previously done, and a few other families would also do, afterward --- incl. Quigley.)

The "*Webb's corners*" private burial-ground "*cemetery*", was near the intersection of present-day Quarry Rd. and S.R.113 --- however, officially it is no longer there.
All of the headstones (and presumably any locatable human-remains near them), **were eventually moved to South Amherst's Evergreen Cemetery**.

[And although the hearsay anecdote about that "funeral procession" is included here, in its entirety; however, be aware that embellishments containing various inaccurate details were typically added each time those "colorful" types of *he-said-that-she-said* stories were repeated. But obviously the 'dead' cannot defend their honor against unverifiable facts --- therefore, it is often prudent to simply omit any blatantly denigrating details* -- unless they were strictly from an autobiographical document. (*- and particularly when those details are not specifically integral to the narrative). The "*Yankee Doodle*" reference implies that Shupe was being carelessly insensitive --- but, for purposes of fairness, only Shupe, himself, would be the proper source of that fact.]

In 1818 a number of families arrived in Amherst. Among these, we find Elisha Foster, his two sons, Elisha Jr., and Leonard; Daniel Cornwell; also Adoniram Webb, and Reuben Webb. Elisha Foster, sen. was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, 1765. From thence he moved to Herkimer county, N. Y., where he remained till 1816, when he left with an ox-team for Ohio, being six weeks on the road. He settled first in Avon township, at that time a part of Cuyahoga county. Two years after, he removed to Amherst; taking up a piece of land near the corners now known as Foster's Corners. He died November 4, 1833, aged 68. His wife preceded him, September 15, 1828, at the age of 61. Both are buried in Amherst Cemetery. Elisha Foster, jr., took up one hundred and twenty acres, adjoining the lands of his father. He was a native of Brattleboro Vt., born Oct., 15, 1795, and died in Amherst, Jan., 23, 1842, aged 46 years, 3 months, and 8 days. His widow still resides on the homestead. His family consists of two sons and two daughters; namely: E. C. Foster, Parks Foster, Mrs. Samuel Porter and Mrs. Ezra Straw.

Leonard Foster took up land now owned by Ephraim Towne. Daniel Cornwell purchased the property now owned by James Nichol.

"*Foster's corners*" was near the modern-day intersection of Cooper-Foster Park Rd. and Oberlin Ave.

Notice the multiple locations informally identified as "*corners*" within the township. However, "Amherst Corners" became a formal, platted village (officially 'founded' by Josiah Harris); later named "North Amherst", and eventually just 'Amherst'.

{ The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *April 8, 1876*: }

Hon. Josiah Harris.

We are indebted for most of this sketch of the Hon. Josiah Harris, to an article published soon after his death, and believed to be from the pen of his son.

The Hon. Josiah Harris, a patriarch, and pioneer, died in Amherst village, March 26, 1868, after a brief illness, aged 84 years.

He was born in Becket, Berkshire County, Mass., Nov. 30, 1783, and was brought up a farmer among the sterile hills of that section. His limited advantages for an education were so well improved that he became a successful teacher of district schools, and well fitted him for a long life of usefulness.

During the war of 1812, Joseph W. Brown, agent for the sale of certain Western Reserve Lands, originally belonging to the Connecticut Land Company, was engaged in exchanging those wild lands in the then far West, for improved farms in the East.

In 1814 Mr. Harris made a journey on foot to Ohio, selected land in exchange for the rough Becket farm, passing through the burnt village of Buffalo, while its ruins were still smouldering from the British torch.

In 1815, he made a second trip on foot to Ohio to locate lands for his neighbors who had exchanged their farms. As an illustration of pedestrianism, in those early days, a party left Becket on horseback at the same time, and a party on foot, each man carrying a pack, who arrived two days ahead of the horses.

Pleased with farming prospects in Central New York, Mr. Harris removed to Madison County in the Spring of 1816, with a view of purchasing a home there. He remained two years, but the noted cold seasons of 1816, and '17, cutting off the corn crops in all that section, the disappointed farmer resolved not to purchase, but to try the milder climate of the almost unbroken wilderness of this Lake region. With ox and horse teams the toilsome journey was made, but nearly ended in the bottomless Cataraugus Swamp, and the unbridged Rocky River gulf.

That quoted "sketch" was written for the eulogy at Josiah's funeral, by Oberlin College's President (and "local-historian") James Fairchild. But additional facts dispute his version about why Harris moved here:

Josiah Harris purchased this Ohio land in 1814, very soon after he first viewed it. (He received the 'deed' in 1814 from Calvin and Martha Austin of Trumbull County, Oh.) Therefore -- after already acquiring the land, here, for his final home -- presumably Harris had some unspecified additional reason in 1816 for temporarily residing in N.Y., prior to permanently relocating to Ohio in 1818. (But obviously the "*cold seasons of 1816, and '17*" were merely coincidental to his Ohio plans.)

On the 2, day of July 1818, the movers' wagons reached the end of the opened road still about two miles from the emigrant's future home. The next day a circuitous wagon route was cut among the trees to the vicinity of a large spring on the bank of the Big Beaver Creek which he had discovered on his land in former explorations. Here a log cabin, fourteen feet square, covered with bark, with puncheon floor and blanket door, was erected. July 4, he moved his family in – a table from the end board of a wagon, rough stools for seats, pole and bark bedsteads affixed to the logs, being improvised. About noon two strangers visited the cabin. They lived down the creek some miles, but hearing falling timber on the 3, they rightly conjectured new settlers had arrived, and to welcome them with true western hospitality, Mr. Jacob Shupe and Mr. Lyon sought them out with bottle of whiskey in hand. After greetings, the party repaired to the big spring and celebrated Independence day in patriotic style, but without cannon or buncombe.

[Incidentally --- Fairchild also embellished a story about Brownhelm's "*first families*" arriving (1817) to their final destination, "just a few days" before their own 4th-of-July, there, too. (However, an actual eye-witness recorded that arrival as being in the first week of June --- not "July".)]

The humble yet hopeful pioneer life was gladdened in due time by an opening in the dense forest, for the summer sunlight, and a log house of more ample dimensions and household comforts. Rowell Crocker who had two years before preceded the coming of Mr. Harris, cleared the first acre of Mr. Harris' land, which embraced the land now occupied as the public square of Amherst village. The contract for clearing the acre was taken by Mr. Crocker for four dollars, and the last tree felled stood where the old carriage shop now stands, at the west end of Blackmer street. Mr. Harris came out as the last tree fell, and said to Mr Crocker, "Since you have done your work so well, I shall give you an extra half dollar;" and drawing his purse paid Mr. C. $4.50. The second log house gave place to a frame dwelling.

Although Fairchild may have presented a few minor "historical" inconsistencies in that (published) eulogy for Harris -- but the subsequent portion of it, was significantly understated. Therefore --- instead of including the final part, here -- and to properly honor the man who truly 'founded' Amherst, Ohio -- here is a section quoted from the Williams Brothers 'History'.

{ '*History of Lorain County, Ohio*' (1879); p.327. }

The most notable man who arrived in 1818, was Josiah Harris. He was a remarkable and truly great man --- great, not only in ability, tact and enterprise, but [also] in justice, purity and honesty. Much of that which is admirable in the institutions and the people of Amherst, is because of his labor and example. His history is written upon the township, and his strong personality seems still to pervade the scenes among which was passed his busy, manly life.

He was, during a long life, the object of universal respect, and his memory is revered by all who knew him. No man in the township exerted a wider or more potent influence for good; no man was more active in promoting the best interests -- material and moral -- of the community. No man was longer or more closely identified with its growth and improvement -- and no man, living or dead, has a larger share of the popular appreciation and admiration, than Judge Josiah Harris.

{abridged}

Mr. Harris was elected Justice of the Peace in 1821, and served for thirty-six years.

He was the first Sheriff of Lorain county, served seven years as Associate Justice, being appointed in 1829; was a member of the General Assembly of Ohio in 1827, representing Cuyahoga [and Lorain] county; represented Lorain and Medina counties in the House, and afterwards was elected to the State Senate from the same district.

Judge Harris was probably the oldest postmaster in the United States. He was appointed by Postmaster-general Meigs, back in the twenties, and held the office continuously to the time of his death -- over forty years -- except while in the legislature.

Judge Harris assisted in various ways with the development of this region. He was agent for a number of eastern land owners, and in this capacity he was enabled to do many a kind turn for the new comers. He gave them the best terms that he could, and aided them in selecting good locations; and was liked by all, because every purchaser knew that he was in no danger of any oppression in default of payment on account of sickness or misfortune, as long as Judge Harris stood between him and the owners.

As a magistrate he urged the settlement of suits, and through his counsel, the litigant parties often left the court with all ill feeling removed, and their cause amicably adjusted.

{abridged}

Here is the end of his bio from the Apr. 8 '*Amherst Free Press*':

Mr. H. was twice married. His first wife was Charity Messenger, born in Becket, Mass., Oct. 6, 1787, by whom he had three sons, and one daughter; namely, Josiah Albert, born January 15, 1807; Lorenz Parks, born May 13, 1812; Emaline Charity, born Oct. 9, 1809; Milo, born April 21, 1822.

Mr. H. married for his second wife, Anna G. Moore, born in Thetford, Vt., May 20, 1798, who gave birth to Ann Eliza, born June 20, 1840, and Mary L., now Mrs. Hitchcock, born June 26, 1842.

Note that Josiah's first wife was Charity Messenger --- the daughter of **Hiram Messenger:** he also accompanied the Harris family here in 1818. [The early local-histories failed to mention that fact -- but, fortunately, it is inscribed upon his tombstone at the Cleveland Street Cemetery -- the same cemetery which was established in 1828 upon his own farm.]

However --- because the historians of Amherst had never ascertained that he had 'deeded' that first cemetery to the community --- the historians of the city of Lorain later wrongly credited their own pioneer cemetery, to him. But land ownership records clearly indicate that the site for the original section of Cleveland Street Cemetery, was subtracted from the southeast part of "*twp. Lot 23* " --- the same part of "lot 23" owned by Hiram Messenger in 1828 when he deeded it for use as a public cemetery. [The date-of-establishment of a public-cemetery cannot be determined from its oldest tombstone. The earliest pioneer burials in this area, were within each family's own farm --- but usually afterward re-interred to the later-established public cemeteries.]

This next item appeared in the *April 22, 1876* edition of the '*Amherst Free Press*' (but it is placed out-of-sequence here, for reasons explained at this item's end).

Caleb Ormsby, born in Becket, Berkshire county Mass. August 1789. He came to Amherst in 1815 and took up a tract of land, a part of which is now embraced in the incorporated village of North Amherst. This land was located on the north side of what is now known as the Cleveland road, extending from Beaver Creek in an easterly direction ~~one mile~~. In 1820, (five years after), Mr. O. moved from Becket to Black River (now Amherst), and built himself a log house, nearly on the site of the Worthington mansion. Some years after, the log cabin gave place to a two story dwelling house, which was purchased in 1873 by J M Worthington, and demolished, in order to make room for his present residence. On this property Mr. Ormsby set an orchard at an early day, perhaps the first planted in the village of Amherst, some of the trees are still seen in the back grounds of the lots lying west of that owned by J. M. Worthington.

Deacon Ormsby, as he was familiarly called, was a man of great versatility of character. He could change from one employment to another with the greatest possible ease. His neighbors say he could preach a funeral sermon on the shortest notice,—fill an appointment for preaching, on any day,—purchase a yoke of cattle, or break a pair of bulls, in quicker time than any other man in Amherst. He usually kept a horse or two, and several yoke of cattle, in order to supply a new settler with a needed team; and, if his stock was short, was uncommonly successful in replenishing it. His life was one of activity, being prolonged to a good old age, dieing July 30th 1864, aged 74 years and 11 months. His wife, Catherine Stanton, survived him for six years. Her native place was Becket, Massachusetts, and born June 22nd., 1787. { abridged } She died October 20th., 1870, at the advanced age of 82 years 3 months, and 29 days.

The abridged portion of that item, was a condensed version of Mrs. Ormsby's lengthy obituary from the Elyria newspaper, (which apparently was also the source of the "1820" year-of-settlement). The 1879 Williams Brothers 'History' instead states that Ormsby settled here in the year 1817 or 1818.

But the more significant factor, is that in 1815, Reverend Caleb Ormsby is said to have accompanied Josiah Harris on his second visit here --- to view the land which Harris purchased in 1814 --- and also select some land for himself. Those two events were the beginning of what could rightfully be called the "Berkshire colony" --- because most of the earliest settlers in Amherst Twp. were formerly residents of Berkshire County, Massachusetts --- some of whom had obviously decided to mutually relocate into this township, (in the same manner as the men from Beaver Co., Pa., had created the 1810 "Beaver Creek colony" in 'Town(ship) 7'; and likewise the families from Stockbridge, MA, began to colonize adjacent Brownhelm, in 1816). That would certainly be true for these 3 "*Becket*"(Mass.) men (Harris, Messenger, and Ormsby) who mutually established the little settlement which soon became known as "*Amherst corners*". But their reasons for creating their new community, here, had no connection to the "*cold seasons of 1816, and '17*" in the northeastern U.S.A. --- because their plans had already begun prior to that. Instead, these three men apparently had specific socio-religious intentions (as was definitely the case of Col. Henry Brown's "Stockbridge colony" of Brownhelm).

The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history*, resumed on April 15, 1876 with an item about Harry Redington (who was wrongly called "Harvey" Redington, in the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History'). But this '*Amherst Free Press*' series omitted mentioning his uncle, Eliphalet Redington, who had arrived prior to Harry. Here is the 1879 'Williams Brothers' data for Eliphalet:

> Eliphalet Redington -- or Captain Redington as he was generally called -- came to the township in February, 1818 --- settled on the South Ridge road --- became widely known, took a prominent part in many public affairs; led an active life and exerted a strong influence in the community. He was a native of Berkshire Co., Mass., but came to Amherst [Twp.] from Trumbull County [Oh.], where he had resided for a short time.
>
> He was one of the committee officially appointed to select a route for the first road* leading from the Miami of the Lake [Maumee River] road to Elyria. { etc.}
>
> [*- presumably refers to 'State Rt. 20'. (State Rt. 113, the "South Ridge road", was already established in 1814, by Lorancie Schellhous and Clark Eldred of Ridgeville Twp.)]

Eliphalet Redington was the first known settler within the original village-limits of South Amherst village (and also the first settler within its current village-limits ---- if the Webb family truly didn't occupy their farm, here, until 1818).

He was the first postmaster within Amherst Twp. -- at present-day South Amherst. (That post-office was started circa-1820, and originally named '*Brooks p.o.*'; renamed '*Black River p.o.*' in 1825 --- renamed '*Amherst p.o.*' in 1830.)

[The first p.o. in the present-day City of Amherst, wasn't begun until circa-1828, named '*Plato p.o.*', by Josiah Harris, postmaster.]

{ The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *April 15, 1876*: }

In connection with Judge Harris is the history of Harry Redington Esq., who, though three years later in Amherst, twp. yet has an important and interesting history among the first settlers. Mr. Redington was born in Stockbridge Massachusetts, the precise year, we have not learned. From thence he removed to Fredonia village, Chatauqua county, N. Y., till the Spring of 1820, at which time he took up his residence in Black River, now Amherst. He purchased Lot No. 39 of Stephen Cable, the same Mr. C. had occupied for several years, the dwelling being the first tavern in Amherst. This property is on the South Ridge, where the Oberlin Road crosses the Telegraph Road.

Mr. Redington came from Chatauqua with three yoke of oxen attached to a wagon, in which was brought his household goods, and farming utensils.

A Mr. Putnam, brother-in-law of Mr. Redington, came with a two horse team and brought the wife and children.

Nothing remarkable occurred on the journey, more than the common incidents experienced by early settlers in those days, until the party arrived at Rocky River. Here, the horse team which was bearing the family, narrowly escaped what might have been a most frightful accident. The bridge was narrow, and the driver perhaps a little careless, so that one of the forward wheels ran off the bridge producing a sudden jerk, which came near throwing Mrs. Redington on the rocks below. She was holding in her lap an infant daughter about six weeks old. The concussion occasioned by the dropping of the wheel was so great as to throw the precious charge she was holding, over the bridge. Fortunately the little one was securely wrapped in a stout shawl or blanket which was caught by a stiff growth of black-berry briers, and by this means saved from almost certain death. Mr. Putnam's fright seems to have nerved him to uncommon strength, for leaping down upon the rocks, he placed his shoulder under the wheel, and replaced it on the bridge. He then gathered up the child from among the briers, returned it to its affrighted mother and proceeded on the journey. This daughter was Louisa, formerly Mrs. George Pope, now Mrs. Brundage, living in LaSalle county, Illinois.

Mr. Redington had ten children whose births are in the following order, namely; Nancy, married to John Frost; Ransom N. living on the farm his father first purchased; Lorinda, married to William Hulburt; Louisa, now Mrs. Brundage, as before stated; Harmonie, married to Noah Eldred; Henry H. in Cambridge, Indiana; Myra, who, while picking cherries on the old homestead, fell from the tree and was so badly injured in the skull as to cause death in thirty six hours; Terrisa, married to Joshua Simmons, now living in Guthrie county, Iowa; Mary Ann, married to Westly Morris, of Grundy county, Illinois; Alfred J. of Camden, Lorain county, Ohio.

Judging from facts, Mr. Redington was a man popular among the voters of Black River and Amherst. Within two years after his settlement here, he was elected to the office of Justice of peace, and was triennially elected from 1822 to 1845, holding the office till 1848, the year in which he died. His legal judgment was so accurate as to admit of few appeals, and most of these were set aside.

His first commission as Justice of the Peace is dated April 25, 1822, and signed by Allen Trimble, Speaker of the Senate, acting as Governor. His last commission is signed by Mordecai Bartley, Governor of the State.

Property-tax records confirm that Harry Redington owned '*twp. Lot 33*' in 1820. (Therefore, the old *"Oberlin Road"* must have been later renamed 'Leavitt Road' -- and was not the same as the present-day 'Oberlin Rd.')

Harry was wrongly identified as *"Harvey"* in the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History'. And although that 1879 history credits Eliphalet Redington as being the first pioneer to own a framed-house within South Amherst --- but its authors were unsure if Chileab Smith had owned the "*second frame house*" within the entire township. (In truth, Eliphalet Redington was taxed in 1821 for a framed-house --- but Chileab Smith was not.) That book also states that it was Jacob Shupe who "*undoubtedly built the first frame house*" within the township. But that precise phrasing indicates that there was actually some historical disagreement about it. (There is normally no reason to utilize a qualifying word such as "undoubtedly" within any 'History' of cover-to-cover undoubted facts.)

But -- regardless of who actually built the first framed-house here --- unfortunately the early histories all failed to give an approximate 'year' of those events --- resulting in the various estimations by recent historians, that Shupe's framed-house was completed circa "1813" or "1814-1818", and etc.

Although Jacob Shupe's framed-house was constructed by the year 1821 (when its specific '1821' tax value was $475) --- but Eliphalet Redington's framed-house was also taxed for the year 1821 (at a value of $125). That information --- in addition to that usage of that qualifying word "undoubtedly" -- and the fact that Eliphalet didn't arrive to this area until circa-1818 --- would collectively suggest that Shupe's framed-house was built at almost the same time as Redington's -- between 1818-1821.

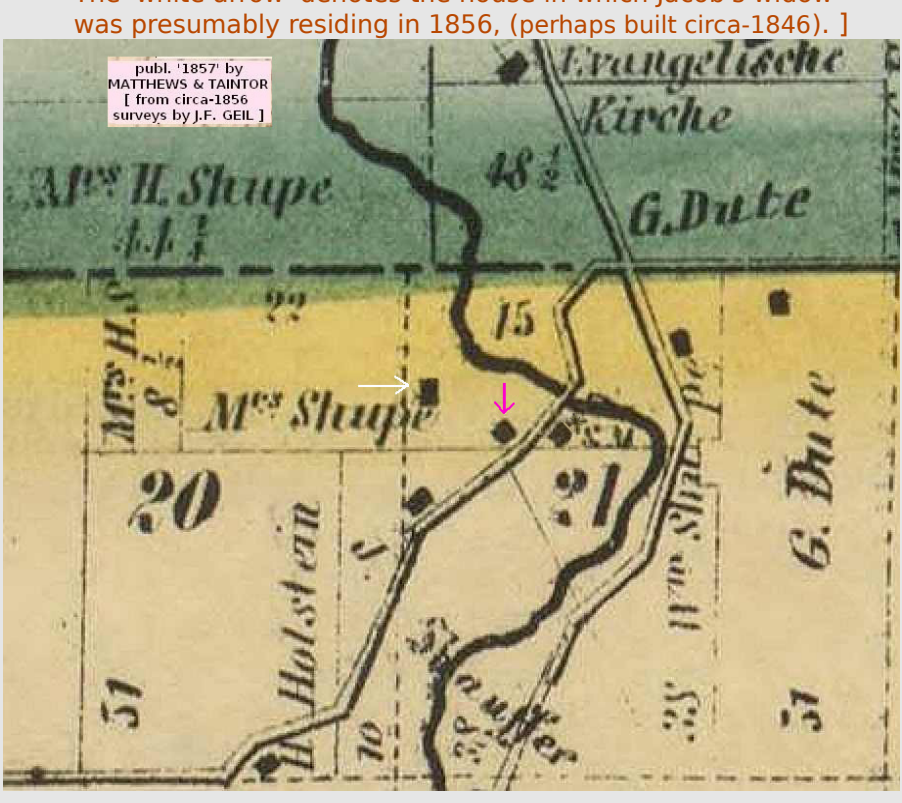
[However, just because there was a circa-1820 framed-house on Shupe's "homestead" land, here --- that fact alone doesn't necessarily mean that 200 years later, an old house which still exists (2018) on a very small portion of Shupe's "homestead", would be that same circa-1820 house. Framed-houses were highly flammable --- which might easily explain why Chileab Smith's framed-house of the mid-1820s, quickly disappeared from the tax-rolls for Smith's own "homestead" property.

Likewise, after Jacob Shupe's death, the later tax-values for his "homestead" land, do not seem to reflect his circa-1820 house as still existing upon it (although perhaps only as a result of his original property being divided into several smaller parcels, beginning circa-1838).

But there is one conspicuous fact (which seems to dispute the modern-historians' new theories-turned-into-history):
In 1821, Jacob's Shupe's framed-house was valued at almost 4 (four) times the value of Redington's. Therefore, Shupe's house must have been a very large house (which, of course, would be the obvious choice for a man who had his own adjacent sawmill, and had access to literally unlimited free lumber).

So --- perhaps the future historians will be able to solve the modern-historians' newly-created dilemma about how Jacob Shupe's ostensibly very large house of circa-1820, can still supposedly exist 200 years later, basically unchanged from its original design --- but, inexplicably, shrank to a fraction of its original size. Until then --- the more-plausible scenario (as evidenced by the later tax-rolls and etc.), is that Shupe's circa-1820 framed-house was very likely built within a few dozen feet from the mill --- and has been gone for more than a century, (and the presently-existing, but several-hundred feet distant and much smaller house is somewhat newer --- built for Jacob's widow during the division of his "homestead" property.)]

The '1857' Lorain County map (below), indicates several structures in the northwest corner of '*Lot 21*', near the sawmill ("*S.M.*") in 1856. [The structure denoted with the 'red arrow', is likely Shupe's circa-1820 framed-house. The structure across the road, adjacent to the mill, was a "*log house*" (as per an '1855' deed-record for that 2-acre parcel). The 'white arrow' denotes the house in which Jacob's widow was presumably residing in 1856, (perhaps built circa-1846).]



Note: the 'survey' for this portion of the "1857" map, must have been completed by 1855 --- because, "*Wm. Shupe*" no longer owned the 38 acres, as shown there. He had sold that 38 acres to George Dute in 1855. But -- more than a decade prior to that sale --- 2 acres had already been split from it, when the mill was sold along with the 2 acres.
(Obviously, the "1857" map was designed without adequate space to include data for that separate 2 acres. However, tax-records of that time-period, indicated that parcel's division. That division is also explained in the following installment of the '*Amherst Free Press*' history.) { out-of-sequence here }

{ '*Amherst Free Press*', *July 1, 1876*: }

This week we publish the history of Ephraim Towne, who has resided on the same farm for forty eight years.

Mr. Towne was born in Worcester county Massachusetts, January 6, 1796. When but six weeks old his father moved to Oneida county, New York, then almost an unbroken wilderness. Here he remained about five years, when his father decided to change his location, and removed to Watertown, Jefferson county in the same state, where he staid a few years, and then took up his abode in the adjoining township of Rutland.

In 1816, the subject of this sketch, at the age of twenty, left Jefferson and came to Willoughby now in Lake co., O. and lived five years. From thence he went to Orange, Cuyahoga county where he married Miss Almira McMitchel July 1st., 1820.

From Orange he came to Amherst in 1828, and purchased the east half of lot 42 of Orson Williams, containing ~~forty-eight~~ seventy-five acres. This lot was first taken up by Elisha Foster who afterwards sold it to John Cutler, and he to Mr. Williams. Considerable clearing had been made on the farm at the time Mr. Towne bought it; yet the price paid by him was quite moderate being four hundred dollars.

Mr. Towne built a saw mill on the little Beaver creek which ran through this property, it being then a stream of considerable capacity at that early date. After being used for about twenty years, it was accidentally burned, and was never rebuilt.

Mr. Towne purchased the Shupe mills and employed a man to manage them. After working these mills about three years he sold them to a Mr "Snyder," but the terms of sale not being complied with, they came back to Mr. Towne. He then gave them to his son, Jeremiah, who eventually disposed of them to Mr. Dute, and were known as Dute's mills. { abridged }

More specifically, the man who purchased the "Shupe" mills, circa-1846, was named Martin Schneider. (Formerly, Schneider was in partnership with John Hildebrand Jr., at a grist-mill near the "old spring" in the village.) Tax records show that Schneider owned the "Shupe" mills starting circa-1846 until 1853 (when the ownership transferred to Ephraim Towne, who, himself -- not his son -- sold them to George Dute, in 1855).

Therefore, by 1846 (and apparently several years prior) these were no longer "*Shupe's mills*", but instead were "*Schneider's mills*" for about a decade until they became "*Dute's mills*". [And, during the subsequent ownerships, Shupe's sons, and/or Schneider, and/or Dute, must have replaced Shupe's very crudely hand-made, original "grind-stone" -- with a commercially-produced new-and-improved one (which ostensibly is now on display at a *private-museum*, there).] (Also, the '*Amherst Free Press*', of *Feb. 26, 1876,* implies that Dute's mill was a newer structure -- because Shupe's mill had been "*on the site where Dute's mill, stands*".)

The data given in that item about Towne's '1828' land, instead might be for one of his later purchases. His 1828 purchase (in Lot 42, on the "north ridge" road) was recorded as 38 ac. from Martin Sheldon of CT. {See further below for the abridged portion of that item, about Towne's eleven children.}

{ The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* continues, *April 29, 1876*: }

The longevity of the pioneers of Amherst has doubtless attracted the notice of the readers of these sketches. Most of them attained to the ripe old age of three score and ten, some to fourscore,—a few lived to be nearly one hundred years old.

From these facts we might conclude that they followed the destiny pre-ordained by their wise Creator who had pre-eminently endowed them with the elements and constitution well fitted for a pioneer life. They were not the pampered children of luxury, dissipation and idleness, but noble men and women who had been subjected from childhood to sturdy toil and hardships,—with strong will of purpose, and a spirit of courage and independence. They were too proud to be dependent, until they had put forth their utmost strength to help themselves.

Added to all this, was an amazing amount of hopefulness and self-reliance. Free from a repining and fretful temper, their early and later privations, did not allow life's vigor to be corroded and eaten away by anxious, useless worry and care. What they determined to accomplish, was pursued as an end till attained. *Fail*, was a word not in their vocabulary. They determined to live, and they did. A green old age was the result.

These remarks emphatically apply to the Pioneer whose history comes next in order; that of Mr JOSEPH QUIGLEY. The subject of this brief memoir was born in York county Pa., 1777, the second year after the Declaration of our National Independence. In 1811, at the age of 34, he came to Ohio and purchased a tract of land on the Lake shore in the township of Black River, west of the river by the same name. Here he remained eleven years; at the end of which time, he disposed of the farm, and came to Amherst, purchased a farm on the west side of Beaver Creek, about half a mile from what was then known as "The Corners," now the village of North Amherst.

The land purchased by Mr. Quigley was in its primeval state; not a rod of the gigantic forest had been cleared, nor any buildings on it. At first a log house was erected, which stood on the corners, near where a more substantial house of stone was erected a number of years after, now occupied by his son G. W. Quigley. On the west end of this farm, in the North west corner, was a quarry of sand stone, now owned by the Amherst Stone Company, and opened about a year after Mr Quigley's death, which occurred April 30th., 1872, at the age of 95.

Notwithstanding the great age attained by both father and mother we find, that out of ~~ten~~ children, five died under fifteen years. Mrs. Mary Quigley, the wife of Joseph Quigley, died December 7th., 1860, aged 83.

As before-mentioned, Joseph Quigley had arrived with other members of the "Beaver Creek colony", to '*Town*(ship) **7**'; and (according to County court-records) he had contracted to buy 'twp. Lot 19' on the Lake shore. [The obituary of his son G.W., states that G.W.'s birthplace was "a short distance west" of the Elyria water-works Lake Erie pumping-station ("*west*", probably being a 'typo' for slighty "east", of that pumping-station.)]

Quigley's life prior to moving to this area, is somewhat a "genealogical" mystery (perhaps being intentional, by Joseph, himself). Past researchers have connected him to a "John Quigley" of Mercer Co., PA --- also to Washington Co., PA -- but court-records of Lorain Co. additionally seem to tie him to the "James Quigley" who lived upon Little Beaver Creek in Beaver Co., PA (and who, in 1810, was a near-neighbor of Abraham Powers*, the professional millwright; and also to John Kelso*, another millwright, who was probably the father of George Kelso of the "Beaver Creek colony" here in Ohio).
[* - "*the hired man*" who designed and/or built Shupe's mill, was surely someone from either the Powers or Kelso families.]

Lorain County court-records also state that Joseph Quigley had briefly resided near Warren, Ohio, before moving here, (therefore he might potentially be the same "Joseph Quigley" who lived in Howland Twp., circa-1802).

Another mystery, is what year Joseph Quigley built his substantial stone-house, which still exists (near the Amherst Historical Society's museum-complex). His son G.W.'s obituary indicates that it was built circa-1832 --- that obit seems to be the sole source of the presently-accepted "1832" attribution. However, obits are seldom accurate in every detail (often being urgently written, etc.). But the County property-tax records seem to disprove that "*1832*" claim --- as does the timeline for the local quarrying industry. Early local-histories (including a further item from the '*Amherst Free Press*') all concur that no local quarrying of building-stone occurred here until ca.1847, (except perhaps for a few primitive 'foundations', and maybe one or two very crude 'basements'). So -- athough the professional stone-work for Quigley's house could potentially have been hauled from some other, more-distant, commercial quarry -- but without tax-record confirmation (or similar reliable source), the "*1832*" date is far more-likely a 'modern myth' --- than verifiable truth. [Instead of simply re-assessing their many myths, historical societies often defend the myths by asserting: "*it is sometimes impossible to determine exact historical details and truths*". But -- if indeed the actual 'dates' (and other precise facts) are that "*indeterminate*" --- then why do they continue to publicly proclaim those same "*indeterminate facts*", as being unequivocal "truth" upon their own boldly-displayed marker-plaques (and etc.).]

An important detail about Quigley that the local-histories failed to mention: during the War-of-1812, he was the 'Captain' of a local-militia company, here. His 'Company' was later honored (by the U.S. Legislature), for their role in rescuing dozens of "Fire Lands" local-militiamen, who were trapped in a cabin on the Marblehead Peninsula, by a group of marauding '*indians*'.

{ The '*Amherst Free Press*' *history*, *April 29, 1876* (cont.): }

We close this sketch with a unique

POLL LIST

of the first election held in Black River Township of which Mr Quigley was one of the Judges. It is still in the hands of G W Quigley. Here is a *verbatim et literatim* copy of the document. It is written on a half sheet of foolscap paper, and in the hand writing of Daniel Perry, one of the Clerks.

"Poll Book, of the election held in the Township of Black River, in the County of Huron, on the 14, day of Oct. one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, Joseph Quigley, Quartus Gillmore and Adoniram Webb, Judges; and Daniel Perry John Morrell clerks of this election were sworn (as the law directs), previous to entering on the duties of their respective offices.

1. John S. Reed,	9. Daniel Perry,
2. D T Baldwin,	10. John Morrell,
3. Jacob Shupe,	11. Chiliab Smith,
4. Joseph Quigly,	12. Fred. Onstine,
5 Q. Gillmore,	13. Dan. Onstine,
6. A. Webb,	14. Sam'l Cable,
7. Ruben Webb,	15. Henry Onstine,
8. S. Cable,	16. Jas. O'Neal,

17. George Kelso.

[Again, note that in 1817, this area was still within geographical "Huron County". (Lorain County was not created until 1822; and became judically independent in 1824.) Several other adult males who resided in this "*Black River township*" judicial-district in 1817, were absent from that 'voter' list.
[Of the ones listed there: nos. 1, 2, 4, and 17, were residents of '*Town 7*' (and probably also nos. 5, 6, 7, 9, 10). The others were residents of '*Town 6*' (except maybe Jas. F. "O'Neal").]

There were quite a few “transient” very early pioneers whose histories within this Twp., have essentially been lost. Jacob Shupe might not have been the only 'Shupe' pioneer, here --- the records also mention “Lawrence Shupe” as a “*resident landowner*”, circa that same time; and a “William Shupe” just north of this Township's boundary, by 1813.

And, in 1811, **Jonathan Seelye** almost certainly resided within the present city-limits of Amherst -- probably upon his 'Town(ship) 7' land, south of Jaeger Rd., in the small section there which is now encompassed within Amherst's city-limits --- although he also owned land adjacent to Jacob Shupe here in '*Town*(ship) *6*'.

Upon whichever site, Seelye may have actually been the true “*first pioneer-settler*” within Amherst. (The “*Amherst Free Press*' history uses the qualifying wording, that “Jacob Shupe” was “believed” to have been the first). Seelye was likely the very first local-pioneer to have “worked” within this township -- he was the surveyor hired (by its original-proprietor investors in the 'Connecticut Land Company'), to lay out the individual town(ship) 'lots' here, circa-1810, before they could be sold.

[Therefore it is possible that Jacob Shupe was also wrongly credited as having been the “first pioneer” of several other various endeavors, here.]

Another “transient pioneer”(as a result of his death in 1819), was Orimel Severance --- who probably had just arrived here in 1818. (He was not mentioned in any local-histories.)

And “transient” Eleazer Crawford (a Revolutionary War soldier) also resided in this township, by 1818 -- for several years, prior to moving slightly north, into the boundaries of 'Town(ship) 7'. (Most of his children married Amherst Twp. pioneers.) Eleazer, who died in 1843 (presumably at his farm on present-day Oberlin Avenue -- a short distance north of “Foster's Corners”), is almost certainly buried in Amherst's Cleveland Street Cemetery, without any grave-marker (nor sufficient public “Revolutionary” military-recognition, now).

The 1820 U.S. Federal Census for “*Black River*” township (which judicially included this later-named Amherst Twp., etc.) lists several more residents whose mention in the plethora of “local-histories” was also either minimal or non-existant: Simeon BRANDT; Henry BRONSON (or BRUNSON); Joseph COLEMAN (Elizabeth Onstine's husband); John CUTLER (his son was probably Jesse Cutler, who married Eleazer Crawford's daughter); James FERRES (Jr. and Sr.); John HENDRY; and perhaps a few others. (The names above, are corroborated by the 1820 land-ownership records for this 'Town(ship) 6'.)

Also circa 1820, “transient” Lorancie Schellhous moved into this township; but his own history, here, began in 1814, when he cleared a wagon path through the wilderness during his prior move from Ridgeville Twp. to Florence Twp. --- that same path became the “South Ridge road” (State Rt. 113). Schellhous later wrote an autobiographical 'memoir', which included some other events during his residency here.

[Original memoirs are usually more-accurate sources than “local-histories”; although diaries/journals, correspondence, and other contemporaneous documents, are the best sources.]

And perhaps some day, a contemporaneous document will surface, which will vindicate the current myth-that-isn't-myth: “*Amherst was named in honor of Amherst, **Massachusetts***.”

Most local-histories assert that Amherst Twp. was named by Jonas Stratton, in honor of his (brief) home of Amherst, **New Hampshire**. But even if Stratton indeed suggested this name, however, the main population of this township had originally lived in Massachusetts, and they clearly agreed that this name also reflected their former State --- thereby honoring both.

The '***Amherst Free Press***' *history* series, resumes below, but --- these remaining items, are presented here (in the words of college-president Fairchild at Harris' funeral) “*without cannon or buncombe*” --- in this case meaning without corrections or personal-commentary (and so, there is no guarantee that these items, themselves, do not contain any additional, occasional 'bunkum').

[As in all the above items, “*Amherst*” means the 'Township'. “*North Amherst*” means the village; see additional notes.)]

{ ALSO SEE THE BOTTOM OF THE FINAL PAGE. }

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history*, of *April 15, 1876*, cont.
(Harry Redington, concluded)

From the Docket kept by Esq. Redington, we judge there was about as much disposition to force the collection of debts among the first settlers as can be found in these days. Sums less than one dollar were sued for, and judgment rendered against the debtor. We find one suit brought to collect 33 cents. Here is a specimen of a few of the notes sued for collection.

“Black River, Sept. 1st, 1820.
For value received I promise to pay unto David Smith or bearer fifteen dollars and fifty cents worth of whiskey on demand.
James F. Neal.”

“For value received I promise to pay H. N. Parker or bearer sixty gallons of good merchantable Whiskey, together with the barrells to be delivered at Spangler's tavern in Cleavelin, on or before the first of August 1828. Elyria Nov. 7 1828. Isaac Wallace.”

“On demand I promise Jotham Forbes to pay him or order ninety nine cents for value received to be paid in Indian corn at cash price. J. Ferris.
Brownhelm, Feb. 22, 1823.”

“Black River July 10 1824
For value received I promise to pay the Barer One Baril of good merchentable Salt on the forst day of november 1825. Harry Ferris.”

“By the first day of April next for value received I promise to pay N. Jenkins & Co. five dollars and thirty cents in good Salts of lye, delivered at their store in Milan. James S. Ferris.
Dated 7th Nov. 1823.”

We change the programme, by giving two complaints.

“Black River, Jan. 19th, 1828.
I, William D. Edson do hereby enter a complaint against Asahel Crandall and Mr. Lambert of Black River township for profane swearing as I verily believe. William D. Edson.
Sworn to and subscribed to before me, Harry Redington, Justice of the Peace.” This complaint is endorsed on the back as follows: “Black River, Jan. 23, 1828. Received of Oramon Lambert twenty-five cents it being the amount of a fine assesst on Oramon Lambert for profane swearing by Harry Rediagton, Justice of the Peace.”

“Received, Black Rivar Dec. 10th, 1823, of Harry Redington, Justice of the Peace, Two Dollars, being a fine collected of Asa Buck for breaking the Sabbath. Hiram Messenger, Treasurer of Black River Township.”

We give a sample of one more note of hand. “For value received I promise to pay Harry Blair ten dollars worth of neat stock, said stock to consist of a Mooley Heifer three years old next spring, said heifer to be delivered in Avon by the first of May next at the market price.
Geo. O. Williams.
Black River, Dec. 22nd, 1825.”

[For purposes of maintaining a somewhat better chronological-order of the pioneer-settlement, the remainder of the '*Amherst Free Press*' *history* items, here, are not all in their original publishing sequence. Also note that the editions of May 20th and Nov. 11th did not print this Amherst Township 'history' series, (and June 17th substituted John J. Kendeigh's obituary; Aug. 26th substituted Josiah Harris Jr.'s obituary).]

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history,* *May 27, 1876,*

Elias Peabody was born Nov. 1, 1791, in Middletown, Mass., nine miles from Old Salem. When he was about four years old, his father moved from Middletown to Merimack, Hillsboro' county, New Hampshire. In 1819, at the age of eighteen, he left for Ohio, making the journey from New Hampshire to Buffalo on foot. Here he took a sailing vessel and embarked for Cleveland. At that time this noble city had but a small population, no harbor, and very little to recommend it as a healthy and desirable location.

Mr. Peabody occupied the first two or more years in assisting the new settlers in clearing off the timber on their farms, and fitting them for cultivation. After that he purchased a farm now situated in the north-east corner of Henrietta, and a few rods west of the Grove Quarry, on which he still resides.

In 1823 he married Miss Malinda Martin, who bare him three sons and two daughters; namely, Flavilla, wife of Charles Andress, born April 9, 1824; Martin, born April 28, 1826; Aurelia (now deceased), married Henry Royce, born July 19, 1829; Marvin, born May 2, 1831, and Elias, born March 28, 1835.

Mr. Peabody was constable under Harry Redington for several years, and was orderly sergeant for the Amherst militia for about the same length of time.

Although nearly blind yet this aged pioneer retains his mental faculties to a remarkable degree. He can tell the age of nearly every man among his acquaintances, and is exceedingly correct in giving dates and names. He is now in his 85th year.

[Technically, Peabody's farm was in n.w. 'Russia Twp.', 'lot 1'.]

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history,* *July 15, 1876,*

Jonas Stratton,

Jonas Stratton was a native of New Hampshire, born October 9, 1791. He was one of nine children, and when only six years old his father died, and he was obliged to work his own way in the world. He served seven years' apprenticeship at cabinet making in Amherst, New Hampshire, becoming a skilled workman in that line of labor.

In 1819 he came to Amherst, at that time a part of Black River, and finding a good opening for his trade, he built a small shop near Webb's corners, and established a flourishing business, furnishing the inhabitants for many miles around with household furniture and coffins. On one occasion he assisted in carrying a coffin to "No 4," (Pittsfield township), a distance of ten miles—through an almost unbroken forest, whose highways were simply paths marked with blazed trees.

In 1821, he married Miss Lucy Smith, formerly of Richmond, Massachusetts, then purchased a piece of land half a mile further east, on which he built a log house and shop. These in process of time, gave place to more substantial, tasteful and comfortable buildings.

Mr. Stratton had two sons and two daughters, Amanda, H. Dwight, Lewell B. and Lucy. Amanda was born in 1822, and in 1844 married Alonzo Gaston of Russia. H. Dwight married Miss Pamela Bryant, and lived until he was 43 years of age. He died in New York, February 20, 1867. Lewell B. died while a child five years old. Lucy married H. B. Bryant, who was associated with her brother Dwight in the business colleges which he established in many of the cities of the United States. She died at her residence in Chicago, February 1873, at the age of 41.

Mr. Stratton was one of the earliest members of the first Congregational church of Amherst. He was always firm in carrying out his convictions of right, and helped to give such a tone to society in Amherst, as is believed will not be lost. From reliable sources, we also learn, that at his instigation, the township received the name of Amherst.

Mr. Stratton, being smitten with paralysis, went with his wife to reside with their daughter, Mrs. Gaston, at whose house he died in 1870. His widow still resides with Mrs. Gaston, and is now 77 years of age.

A sketch of H. Dwight is necessary to complete the history of the Stratton family.

Henry Dwight Stratton.

We resume this week the Stratton family history by furnishing a sketch of Henry D. Stratton; the material for which was prepared by W. S. Packard, who was a co-laborer with him for many years.

Mr. Stratton is known to the world as an educator, although very little of his extraordinary efforts in behalf of his specialty was directed to the work of instruction. It is doubtful, indeed, if he ever earned the right to be known as a *teacher* in the strict sense of that term.

Mr. Stratton was, in the best sense, a business man; and to him, more than any other, living, or dead, is due the credit of placing education upon a business basis. The founder of *forty-four* separate institutions in the leading cities of the country, he so thoroughly maintained the credit of his firm as to place it among the highest ratings of the agencies in the various cities.

Henry Dwight was the second of four children, and was born in Amherst, August 9, 1824. He was never a rugged boy, but grew up rapidly with a slender constitution. Owing to this disqualification, he was neither put to hard study nor to hard work. His father being a cabinet maker by trade, he took up that occupation as soon as he was of sufficient age to be of service. His education, until he was some eighteen or nineteen years of age, was such as usually falls to the lot of boys in the country. He had up to this time, no special inclination to study, but had made respectable progress in the English branches. He then spent a couple of years in the English department of Oberlin College.

While at Oberlin he became deeply interested in the art of Penmanship; and as the profession of teaching seemed to be the first step of a young man to take in striking out for himself, and as, moreover, the duties of a Writing Teacher combined adventures with profit, he prepared himself to enter on this field. His first effort as a "Professor of Penmanship," was at Charlestown, Mass., in the suburbs of Boston. There seems to be no public record of his "success" in his new profession; but he always alluded to this first venture as a most important era in his life; and he never had any doubt that he gave an equivalent for the money he received. He afterwards visited various portions of the New England States, paying his way in teaching; and, after an absence of two years, returned to his native town a travelled gentleman, and a fully fledged writing master. He was accustomed, in after years, to make humorous allusions to his "Boston" professorship, and to illustrate, for the amusement of others, his *original* system of inculcating art. For a number of years he devoted himself to such opportunities of making money as occur in country places. He took a contract to furnish timber for the railroad, in which,—though many predicted loss—he was quite successful. With the little capital he thus acquired he engaged in purchasing sheep,—a very important business in this part of Ohio, and in this also was successful. With his accumulations he purchased land, until he became the owner of some 300 to 400 acres of good farming and grazing lands. This gave him large opportunities to prosecute his live-stock business, which he did with fair success.

In 1851 and '2 he took a course of mercantile training at Folsome's Commercial College, Cleveland, in which Mr. H. B. Bryant was chief instructor in book-keeping.

Whilst here he conceived the idea, or project, of establishing a series of institutions in the various commercial cities of the country; and uniting with Mr. Bryant and James W. Lusk (the latter a favorite pupil of P. R. Spencer, and an acknowledged master of the science and art of writing) the plan was perfected, and the first institution started in Cleveland under the style of Bryant, Lusk & Stratton's Mercantile College." This was in the spring of 1863. During the following winter the second college of the series was commenced, under the same style, in Buffalo, as a successor of Spencer & Rice's institution, which had been in vogue a year or more.

In the following Autumn of 1856, Mr. Stratton opened the Chicago College, which at once entered upon a successful career. The college in Albany was opened in January '57; the one in Detroit in the fall of the same year. Then followed Philadelphia and New York.

The New York College, which was opened in the Cooper Institute Building on the first of October, 1858, gradually grew in favor, and soon exhibited the germ of future success. For years after Mr. S. issued a work on book-keeping, one on commercial arithmetic, and one on commercial law. These works, prepared by competent authors, became at once the text books of the colleges, and have steadily won the best opinions of teachers and practical men.

In 1860, Mr Stratton removed with his family to New York, which was thenceforth his home; although, till his last sickness, the greater portion of his time was spent in journeyings between the "links" of the great international colleges which he established.

In the fall of 1865, while attending the New York State Fair at Utica, he took a severe cold, which settled on his lungs, and put a brief limit to his days. He died on the night of the 20 of February, 1867, just as the clock at the foot of his bed was striking "low twelve." His age was 42 years, 6 months, and 11 days.

Rice--Kendeigh.

In 1822 and 1823 several new settlers came to Amherst, then Black River. Prominent among them was Abram Rice, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, April 21, 1801. At the time of leaving for Ohio, he lived in Mount Pleasant. He came to Amherst September 1, 1822. He took up a tract of land containing one hundred acres, comprising certain parts of two farms now owned respectively by Benjamin Hildebrandt, and Conrad Hageman. The same year he built his first log house on that part of the land now owned by Mr. Hildebrandt.

Mr. Rice's house, like many of those built by our pioneer population, was humble and unpretentious. On the day he moved into it, it was little more than a temporary shelter from pitiless storms, floored only in part, and minus fire place, windows and doors. Perhaps it was such as the Poet sighed for, when he sung,

"O, for a lodge in some vast wilderness;"

for certainly it was in a vast wilderness stretching from the Lakes to the then undefined, Great West.

No doubt our pioneers experienced something of the solitude with which they were surrounded, but bore it with christian fortitude, hoping and believing that before them, and not far before them, was a successful future.

Still Mr. Rice was not wholly satisfied with the location, and therefor within a year or two a more desirable one was found about one half mile north of Webb's Corners. Here Mr. R. began anew the work of a pioneer, building and clearing with the view and purpose of a permanent home. This has been realized, and the hard toiling pilgrims have been neither wanderers nor changeful for the last halfcentury. Having reached beyond three score years and ten, they contemplate their present possessions their last earthly home.

To Mr. Rice have been born seven sons and seven daughters, all of whom arrived to mature years. Their names in order of birth, are as follows: Mary, married O. P. Killmer; Daniel, Samuel, Ann E., married Hiram Wilbur; John S., Mellissa, married H. Strickler; Adaline, married Wm. Pearl; Margaret, married I. G. Hazel; Nancy, married G. R. Barney; Susan B., married J. K. Hazel; Abram G., Westley C., Charles C., and George W. Samuel, Mellissa, Nancy, and Abram are dead. Thus it is seen that this couple have worthily fufilled their high mission.

The year after Mr. Rice came to this township, Henry Kendeigh Jr., and John Kendeigh made their settlement. We shall give the history of H. Kendeigh Jr., who was of German descent, and came from Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. He was born January 20, 1796. His wife was Miss Nancy Rice, born in Fayette county, Pa., May 21, 1798.

Mr. Kendeigh was more highly favored in his facilities of moving, than most of those who settled this region at that day. His team consisted of three horses attached to a wagon of Pennsylvania mould. The team he used till worn out, after that he, in common with other settlers was obliged to resort to the patient ox as a beast of toil and burden.

It took about two weeks of travel to perform the journey from Westmoreland to this place. On arriving, Mr. Kendeigh took up land east of Shupe's mills, and owned now by B. Hildebrandt. But owing to the quality of the water, Mr. K. concluded to seek a more favorable location, and therefor purchased a lot containing one hundred and three acres, at what is now known as Kendeigh's Corners. The price paid for the land was $3.00 per acre.

His son John, who was only three years old when his father moved to Amherst, has some vivid recollections of incidents of journey from Pennsylvania to Ohio. He says most of the taverns on the route were merely log cabins, consisting of only a single room, where guests and family bunked down on the floor promiscuously. He recollects staying over night at one such *hotel*, where the Irish landlord had taken in a tenant family with his own. The travellers had brought in their beds and taken their alloted space on the floor. Sometime during the night the wooden chimney caught on fire, arousing the sleepy inmates of the room. The proprietor or his tenant, Mr. K. knows not which, sprung from his lowly bed, and with only his under garment clambered up the chimney and extinguished the fire. The scene was so ludicrous that he could never forget it.

Mr. Kendeigh died August 13, 1836, aged 40 years, 7 months, and 14 days, leaving a widow with seven children, the eldest about 16 years old. An uncleared farm, and half a dozen boys to rear, was no small burden for a slender woman to bear. Yet Mrs. Kendeigh proved equal to the task, and reared an industrious and well-to-do family, who honored and cherished her in the long protracted illness that ended in death, which occurred July 14, 1871, at the age of 73 years, 1 month, and 14 days. All her children survive her with one exception. Their names are: John Jr., Samuel, Maria (wife of Manhattan Gibson), David, Jonas, Alonzo, and Hiram. David died when about sixteen years old.

John Kendeigh Sen.

The next pioneer is John Kendeigh Sen., who was born in Lancaster county, Penn., January 8, 1800. When he was quite young his father who was of German stock, moved first to Lebanon county, and in 1812 to Carlisle. In 1811 his father took him to Fayette county. In 1822 Mr. Kendeigh was induced, by his brother-in-law, Mr. Abram Rice, to come to Ohio. Gathering up his goods and chattels, in the fall of that year, he came to Amherst. Mr. Rice came with a two horse team and wagon bringing the family, while Mr. Kendeigh made the entire journey of three hundred miles, driving before him some thirty sheep and three head of cattle, and keeping up with the team. The whole distance was made in about fourteen days, averaging over twenty miles a day.

Mr. K. purchased a piece of land north of the "Corners," and east of Shupe's mills—lands now owned by the Dutes. His first habitation was in a double log house, owned and occupied by Abram Rice, in which he lived till he erected a cabin of his own, and moved into it.

Here he remained about five years, and then sold out to Peter Rice. He then purchased the farm on which he now resides, being a part of lot 91, having also purchased of Abram Rice a part of lot 92.

Mr. Kendeigh's first wife was Mary Rice, born January 11, 1803, and died June 21, 1862, aged 59 years, 6 months and 9 days. His second wife was Nancy Bates, born June —, 1812, died March 17, 1875, aged 62 years and 9 months.

The children of John and Mary Kendeigh were the following: Henry, died October 31, 1874, aged 54; Betsey, wife of Stephen Knickerbocker, died July 4, 1854, aged 33 years; Nancy, age at death about 5 years, and Catharine, wife of Lot Parsons.

George Disbrow.

George Disbrow was born in Fairfield, Conn., May 22, 1800. While less than a year old, his father moved to Green county, N. Y. Here he lived till he married. In October, 1824, with two ox teams, accompanied with the whole of his father's family—thirteen in all—he came to South Amherst as a master blacksmith, the first regular blacksmith in the town. He did the smithwork for the stages that once ran the telegraph road. His children were two sons and four daughters; namely, Louisa, (now dead) wife of Orange Burrill; Truman, Ralph, Lucinda, wife of Warren Dunham; Huldah, wife of William Dunham; Mary, wife of Isaac Smith of Sheffield—now the wife of Ezra Avery.

Ralph served in the 7th Michigan Cavalry during the war for the Union, and was wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg.

[Technically, Disbrow's farm was probably in 'Russia Twp.', 'lot 1'.]

Nicholas Stanton.

families, that their memories may be embalmed ... their descendants. We give a sketch this week of Nicholas Stanton, who was born in Becket, Berkshire Co., Mass., April 4, 1780. He came to Amherst in the fall of 1824.

His first settlement was on the west side of Beaver Creek, adjoining the lands of George Onstine. After a time he sold out to Mr. Onstine, and purchased a piece of land east of the village of North Amherst. With patient toil he cleared up his farm, and brought it under cultivation, making it a charming and pleasant dwelling place. Here he remained until infirmities of age made it necessary for him to sell the property and retire to a more quiet life. Mr Stanton was twice married. His first wife was Jemima Traverse, born in Amsterdam, Montgomery Co., N. Y. She died under peculiar circumstances, February, 23, 1828, leaving an infant that soon followed its mother.

By the first wife were born nine children: James, born December 13, 1808, died February 23, 1828; Mary A., wife of Hiram Griffith, born May 6, 1813; Eliza G., wife of Geo. Brooks, born November 14, 1814; Latham, born July 7, 1816, died April 1, 1862; Nancy C., wife of John Wilford, born August 29, 1820, died August 30, 1854; Mariam, born June 28, 1822, died November 29, 1844; Harriet A., wife of Alexander Kline, born May 1, 1824, and Albert, born June 23, 1826, died November 1, 1839.

About ten years after the death of his first wife, Mr. Stanton married for a second wife Mrs. Rebecca Honsinger (a sister of the former wife), who died July 25, 1865.

So far as is known, there is left no male descendant to perpetuate Mr. Stanton's name.

The 'Amherst Free Press' series omitted mentioning the following pioneers who also arrived 1824-1828. (This info is from the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History').

"George Dudley and Roswell Cune were in the township by this time [1824], or soon after."
[Cune had a tannery near South Amherst.]

"Royal Barney and wife and family, of Ellisburgh, Jefferson county, New York, settled on lot forty-five in 1825, it having been purchased the year previous. The Barney family lived in the log school house, near the corners, [in 1824?] until they could build a house upon their own land. The sons were Orimel, Edson and Royal [Jr]. [and Schuyler?; and dau. Philania (wife of Shadrach N. Moore). Most of the Barney family left Ohio, btw.1835 -1845. Royal Jr. and Edson became "Mormons".] "Royal Barney [Sr.], and a man by the name of Norton, built a mill on Barney [Barnes?] creek (then called [Little] Beaver), in 1829, and sawed a great deal of lumber."
"Mr. [Sereno] Norton came either in 1828[?*] or the following year." [* - by 1826, he owned all of twp.-lot no.57. By 1835, Sereno Norton moved back to NY State?]

"Addison Tracey settled upon the South ridge in 1826 or 1827" (and had "first store at South Amherst").

"James Jackson and wife came ["1828"] from Vermont. Three of their children, James, Michael and Louise, reside in the township. Michael is proprietor of the 'Henrie House' at North Amherst."

"Freeman Richmond settled in Black River [Twp.] in 1824, or the succeeding year, but the date of his settlement in Amherst [Twp.] was considerably later."
[Although his Black River Township farm was just barely north of Amherst Twp.'s boundary, but he was regularly associated with *"Amherst corners"* --- even prior to actually moving into Amherst Township in the 1840s:]

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history, June 3, 1876,*

Freeman Richmond.

The subject of this sketch was born in Providence, R. I., August 29, 1791. While a child of two years, his parents moved to Westfield, Chatauqua county, N. Y., where he remained till after his marriage to Nancy Arnold of Westfield. Soon after marriage, he removed to Sheffield, Loraia county, Ohio, December 1, 1815.

He brought with him his household goods, and provisions sufficient to carry him through the winter, transporting them by ox-team through the wilderness. While crossing Rocky river on the ice, his team broke through, and he, kneeling on the ice, held their heads above the water until assistance came and relieved him from his perilous condition, and enabled him to pursue with joy his way to his future home.

He was one of the first settlers in the township of Sheffield. Philinda, his eldest daughter, born September 14, 1817, was the first white child born in Sheffield. She married Schuyler Strong, and died Nov. 4, 1844. His wife Nancy died August 12, 1819.

In the course of time he married widow Eunice Fox, who was born in Onondaga county, N. Y. She was first married to Levi Fox, by whom she had four children: Gilbert, born February 18, 1813. He moved to Iowa in its early days, and settled in Fairfield, Jefferson county, where he built the first dwelling house in that place, and the first church in the city of Burlington. He died December 15, 1844. Orpha, wife of Isaac Ormsby, was born March 5, 1815; Hannah, who married David M. Secley for her first husband, and John Wilcox for her second, was born January 12, 1818. Nancy was born July 25, 1820; She married Farnum Whitcomb, and is now living in Ottumwa, Wapello county, Iowa.

The children of the second marriage are, Syloia, born July 15, 1824, and married Albert Arnold. She died November 11, 1872. Minerva, wife of ~~Jacob~~ Shupe, was born July 31, 1826; Jane, born February 19, 1829, died April 10, 1847; Albert, born April 15, 1831; Milo, born January 2, 1837; Elmeda, wife of James Rankin, born July 24, 1839.

February 15, 1825, Freeman Richmond moved from Sheffield to Black River township, two miles north-east of North Amherst village, felled a few trees and built his log cabin. The land on which he settled was an unbroken wilderness, the nearest clearing being Mr. Jacob Shupe's. Here he labored literally, night and day, to clear up his farm—his industry being nobly seconded by his wife, who, as our pioneer mothers were accustomed to do, spun and wove, and clothed their households. In the Fall of 1837, previous to the birth of her youngest son, she wove *five hundred yards* of woolen cloth. A woman of such industry and energy, is worthy of more than a bare mention in this Centennial year.

Mr. Richmond and his wife are now living on the Middle Ridge—he at the advanced age of 85, and she at the age of 78.

In those days the early settlers were often annoyed by wild beasts. On one occasion Betsey Shupe and Orpha Fox started for Elyria on horse-back—both on the same horse. The road was through the woods, there being very few clearings. When about half way to Elyria, they saw ahead of them a large wolf sitting in the road, and, to all appearance, waiting to become better acquainted with them. But the girls set up a terrific scream which, apparently, frightened the wolf as badly as his presence had scared them, for he immediately ran off into the woods and let them go on their way unmolested. This was only one of the many annoyances which the pioneers experienced from this class of mean, sneaking brutes.

[from Beers 1894 '*Biographical Record*' of Lorain County]

John Steele, "a native of Delaware County, N.Y., was a tanner and currier, and harness and saddle maker. In 1818, he came to Lorain County, settling in Avon Twp., where he followed his trade for some years, and then, about 1826, removed to North Amherst. Here he passed from earth at the age of 66 years." [His wife] Pollie (St. John) Steele, "was born in Conn., and reared in Delaware Co., N.Y.; she d. in California."

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history, June 10, 1876,*

(Capt. Stanton Sholes)

Captain Stanton Sholes.

Was among the early settlers of Amherst. He was born in Groton, New London County, Connecticut, in the year 1770. He was one of thirteen children,—eight sons and five daughters. His education was only that obtained in the common schools of the Nutmeg State, a hundred years ago. At an early period he chose a seaman's life,—and finally became a sea captain. This, and that of being captain of an artillery company in the war of 1812, gave him the name of Captain Sholes.

After quitting a sea-faring life, he married, and had three children; two sons and a daughter. He moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., where, for many years, he kept a hotel. James, his older son, was Sheriff of the county for several years.

About the year 1823, he left Pittsburgh and came to Akron O., and entered into the mercantile business, for a while. From thence he moved to Medina, following the same business. From Medina he came to Elyria and opened a store,—from thence he went to Black River—and from Black River he came to Amherst in 1827.

When Captain Sholes came to Amherst, he purchased fifty acres of land of Caleb Ormsby—being a part of the west side of lot No. 23, and built the first house on the site where Mr. Heufed's house now stands. His store stood where Heufed's shoe shop is located. In 1829 he quit the mercantile business in Amherst and erected the first house on the site where Mr. Ashenbach now lives. This house was moved off by Mr. Ashenbach, three years ago, and now stands a little to the north of its old site.

Captain Sholes left Amherst for Rock Island, Ill., about the time of the close of the Black Hawk war, which must have been about 1833, or 1834. Mr. Sholes regarded this as a good opening for somebody, and he concluded to embrace it. Accordingly he sold out his possessions in Amherst to Conrad Ried Esqr., of Black River, and left for Rock Island. Arriving in good time, he located on the very site that Black Hawk had so recently vacated; owned, at one time, one half of what is now the city of Davenport.

Captain Sholes lived here several years, and did much towards developing the place, as he had done in other places where he had lived. He came back to Ohio in consequence of a diseased condition of his eyes. He claimed that that vast open prarie country was injurious to his eyesight. Being convinced that he would certainly lose his eyesight, if he remained there, he came to see an occulist in Cincinnati, who operated on his eyes, but, under the treatment, he had the misfortune to lose one of them. The Doctor told him he would lose the other if he did not abandon the prarie country. This he did, making Ohio again his home. But he left Davenport at a great sacrifice for it is now a city of many thousand inhabitants. He located after his return to Ohio about 1840, a little west of Columbus, where he remained only two or three years, and then removed into the city and lived for many years. Here he remained till his death, which occurred in 1865.

We find the following obituary notice in the Fireland's Pioneer tot 1865.

"Another of the old land marks of our State has fallen,—one of the most venerable in years, and who rendered good service in his day and generation. Captain Stanton Sholes died in Columbus on the 7th inst where he had lived a much respected citizen since about 1840, at the great age of 98. He was a native of Connecticut, and in his later years used to relate from recollection, the scene of the burning of New London, and the massacre of [the Garrison] of Fort Ledyard [Griswold] by the British. When the war of 1812 broke out, Captain Sholes was residing at Pittsburgh, or in its vicinity, and at the time the Lake frontier was panic stricken by the surrender of Hull, he hastened with a company from Pittsburgh to the defence of Cleveland, then a small settlement in the wilderness. He was stationed here for sometime, and the surviving early settlers treasure pleasant recollections of their volunteer defender. Captain Sholes, we believe was in command at Maumee and Fort Meigs

For many years previous to 1840, Captain Sholes resided in Medina, then in Lorain County, and was a prominent and successful merchant. He was a man of much mental and physical vigor—a devoted patriot and lover of his country—at the commencement of the rebellion he expressed fervent wishes to be permitted to live to see the Union restored, or at least the cause of the war forever abolished. He was spared to realize the latter, and sank to rest in the midst of the satisfaction of the edict of universal freedom.

Captain Sholes was ever a man of practical patriotism. When the Morgan raid through Ohio threatened Columbus, he procured a rusty sword from the state arsenal, and had it suspended within reach of his bed side. "Old and feeble as I am," said the indignant veteran, I would have used the good weapon to prevent the pollution of my threshold by a rebel foot."

Salmon Johnson.

In 1827 emigration to this part of Amherst began to assume considerable proportions, and several families came in who settled down around "the corners." Some remained for a short period only, while others are perpetuated to this day by their descendants.

Of these we mention in this number first, Salmon Johnson. Mr. J. was a native of Connecticut, born in the year of our Lord, 1767. He left his native place and moved to Whitehall, on Lake Champlain N. Y., where he took up land and made a settlement. We have no means of knowing the length of time he remained at Whitehall, but learn that he and his brother traded their farms for a tract of land in Tioga County in the same state. After removing thither he learned to his grief, that the title by which he held the property was worthless, and thereby he became bankrupt. After living a short time in Bradford county, for a year or so, he returned to Tioga co., and remained till 1823. During his residence there he held the office of Justice of the Peace for a number of years, and did a vast deal of business, considering the amount of population in that vicinity. Business with merchants was mostly done on the credit system, and much of their money was collected by process of law. Besides, there was a class of men there, as was the case in many another place, who sought to gratify their spite against a neighbor, by seeking and finding pretexts for prosecuting him, and making costs for him.

In 1823 he left the state of N. Y. and came to Ohio, settling first in Southern Ohio, in Lawrence county. He remained here till late in the year—either November, or December,—of 1827, and took up the line of march for Amherst. He came with horse teams, and the roads being new and bad, was on the road seventeen days. His first dwelling place was in a house which stood near where Hiram Belden's house now stands. Here he remained until his son Alvah T. erected for him the house now occupied by James Lewis, in which he continued to reside until May 4, 1846, at which time he departed this life, aged 79 years. Mary, wife of Salmon Johnson was born July 26, 1773. Died December 22, 1846.

The family of Mr. Johnson at the time he came to Amherst consisted of himself, wife, two sons, and a daughter. Their names were, Thomas F. Alvah T. and Deborah, who afterwards became the wife of Doctor John Quigley. Thomas returned to Tioga county N. Y. soon after his father came to Amherst, and died there many years ago. Mrs. Quigly is also dead.

Alvah T. Johnson.

Alvah T. son of Salmon Johnson, was born in Bradford county Pennsylvania, June 16, 1807—as before stated he came to Amherst with his father, and lived with him until his marriage with Fanny Leslie who was born October 17, 1810.

Mr. Johnson probably is as well, if not better, posted in the settlement of the town for the last fifty years, than any other man. He has resided here during all that period, and his business relations have been such as to bring him often in contact with the entire population. He served ten years as constable, in which capacity he was often obliged to ascertain the assets as well as the honesty of many a man. Thirteen years he was elected Assessor of the township, which gave him a knowledge of every piece and parcel of land and the name of its owner. He has probably held office in Amherst for a term of years longer than any other man living in it. Mr. Johnson has had born to him eight children; namely:

Fanny Louisa,	born	April 21,	1834,
Lovinia,	"	Jan. 8,	1836,
Alvah Vernon,	"	Sept. 15,	1837,
Byron,	"	Apr. 8,	1839,
Mary Ann,	"	Aug, 22,	1840,
Ellen Adelaide,	"	Feb. 28,	1842,
Emma Jane,	"	Sept. 8,	1845,
Lucius F.	"	Aug. 11,	1848.

Ephraim Towne.

[concluded]

posed (were known as Dute's mills,

Mrs Towne, who was born May 20, 1805, died March 21, 1864, at the age of 58 years and 10 months. Mr. T. married again, October 29, 1865. His wife was Mrs. Almira Harns, the widdow of Thomas Harns. Mrs. Harns was born in Chesterfield, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, September 16, 1807. They still reside on the homestead first purchased by Mr. Towne.

Mr. T. has reared to mature age a large family, consisting of 11 children 7 sons and 4 daughters, namely:

Caroline,	born	May 19,	1821.
Lorenzo B.	"	April 23,	1823.
Sarah G.	"	March 7,	1825.
Leonard A.	"	July 26,	1828.
Jeremiah B.	"	Nov. 11,	1830.
Ralph W.	"	May 9,	1832.
Calista C.	"	May 3,	1834.
Ephraim N.	"	Jan. 19,	1838.
Francis A.	"	May 15,	1841.
Sylvanus A.	"	Jan. 5,	1845.
Georgina	"	Dec. 31,	1847.

The last 7 were born in Amherst. Ephraim N. was killed in battle at Acquia Landing, Virginia, May 3, 1863, being in his 26, year.

Joseph Rice,

Son of John and Ann Rice, was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, May 6, 1788. After arriving at mature age, he married Betsey E. Ulery,

In the spring of 1829, he came to Amherst, bringing with him his family, consisting of his wife and four sons. He purchased a farm, a little west of Kendeigh's corners, and began clearing and improving it for his future home. But in 1835 his health failed, which resulted in his death, September 30, of the same year, at the age of 47. His widow continued to live on the farm, surviving her husband thirty years, and died October 3, 1875, at the age of 80.

The four sons which accompanied their father to Amherst, we judge, were all the children born to Mr. Rice. Their names were as follows, namely: Henry, born July 13, 1816. He moved to Crawford county, Wisconsin, 1846, where he died, March 5, 1849. His family came to Amherst. Peter J. born, Feb. 19, 1818, who lives at this date of writing, about two miles west of Oberlin; Samuel B., born Feb. 1, 1825. He went to Wisconsin in 1846, and from thence went to California in 1852, and died December 23, of the same year. Joseph J., born Sept. 17, 1828, and is living on the old homestead which his father first purchased in Amherst.

[from the 1879 Williams Brothers '*History*':]

ORGANIZATION OF THE TOWNSHIP.

An application was made to the legislature for the separate organization of Black river [Twp. '**7**'], in 1829; and on the 12th of January, 1830, an act was passed incorporating that township, and the act further provided that township '*number six in range eighteen*', should be detached, and remain separate from township '*number seven* ' --- and be known as 'Amherst' [Twp.].

[However, prior to that year, they had merely been judicially "attached" --- but geographically they were originally created as being separate 'Town 7' and 'Town 6'. But Town(ship) '7' was designated as "fractional", because it merely did not have the same acreage as the fully "square" town(ship)s.]

Willis Potter.

Willis Potter was born in Providence, West Greenwich, Rhode Island, Dec. 4, 1790. When a child six months old, his father (David Potter), moved to Bennington, Vermont, where he lived about seven years, and then moved to Salisbury, Herkimer Co., N. Y. Willis Potter, at the age of nineteen, married Susannah Richmond, July 21, 1809, and the following winter, moved to Chautauque Co., N. Y., where he resided until Sept. 5, 1816. Then he moved to what is *now* Avon, arriving there the first of Oct. 1816. All his household effects were packed into an ox cart, with his wife and three children: Arnold, Roxanna and William. To said cart was attached a yoke of three-year-old steers, and behind the cart, bringing up the rear, was tied the cows which were to furnish the *fluid* portion of food for the little ones.

A young *single* man was the only one who helped make up the party for Ohio. Arriving at Cleveland, they were ferried across the Cuyahoga; but as the ferry was not sufficiently capacious to take the two cows on board they were compelled to swim, which frightened the children very much as they were sure they must drown. Arriving in Avon, he articled a piece of lands of Jabes Burrell, joining Oliver Moon on the east, the number of the lot I do not remember. He lived there about ten years, and then moved into the town of Sheffield, about one mile below the Hecock Mills, lived there two years and then moved back to Avon on the Case road, and remained there until he moved to Amherst, where he spent the balance of his days. He moved to Amherst in the winter of 1830, and took up a piece of land joining Ephraim Towne on the North. Here he built a comfortable log house the fall previous, and after getting comfortably settled he turned his attention to felling the grand old forest which closely surrounded the house. Year after year the process of clearing went on, the giant oak had to succumb to the sturdy blows of the woodman's axe, until what was once a mighty forest, was now a broad clearing, covered with green pastures and fields of waving corn.

For more than thirty-five years he occupied this farm raising a large family of children. But when they were all grown to manhood and womanhood, and away buffeting the world for themselves, he found he could not, in his old age, stand the fatigue of farming; so he sold the farm and moved to the village of North Amherst, where he lived until his death, which occurred July 21, 1872, at the age of 82 years, 7 months, and 17 days.

Some incidents of his life may not be devoid of interest. While living in Chautauqua Co., N Y., the war of 1812 broke out and he was drafted into the service. He was at the battle of Black Rock the night, or rather the morning, before the burning of Buffalo by the British. Soon after that he was discharged and returned home, having served a little over four months, and for said service, he in after years received a bounty of 80 acres of land. { abridged }

I might name many incidents of pioneer life which I have heard my father relate, but I have already made this article longer than I intended.

Willis Potter was the father of thirteen children, only five of the number are now living. William lives in Circleville, O., W. P., Sylvester, and Elizabeth Moore are residents of Amherst and J. C. resides in Elyria. There are twenty one grand children, now living; and about the same number of great grand children.—J. C. P.

[The abridged part of that item, was a very lengthy tale about Willis Potter, Oliver Moon, and Moon's lost horse. And a bear 'cornered' by two dogs. And a wolf. (The bear was mortally defeated --- the men ate some of the bear -- the wolf ate some of the bear -- the wolf was mortally defeated --- there was a $20 reward for the wolf's demise, and its 'fur coat' was a bonus prize. In regard to the horse --- the tale ends, unresolved.)]

[from the1879 Williams Brothers 'History':]

“Nathaniel Bryant, senior, was born in Eastington, Gloucestershire, England, in the year 1749. He came to America in 1829, and settled in South Amherst with his son, John Bryant, in 1830. He died in South Amherst in 1833. { abridged; see the 1879 'History', for his family } This family came from England to America, in the fall of 1829, and remained in Philadelphia during the winter. Moved to Norwalk, Ohio, in the spring of 1830, and thence to Amherst in the fall of the same year.”

[also arrived circa-1830] "Horace Steele".

[The '*Amherst Free Press*' stated that there would be a follow-up item about the Steele families; but none was was found in the archives accessed for this 2018 publ.]

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history, July 1, 1876,*

Joseph L. Whiton.

In the year 1830 several families were added to the growing settlement of Amherst. Among these was that of Hon. Joseph L. Whiton, who was a native of Lee, Massachusetts, born July 14, 1799. He purchased and settled on Lot 47, containing one hundred and forty-seven acres, on which he continued to reside to the close of life.

Mr. W. was a man of more than ordinary ability, which attracted the notice of a discerning public, and called him out into the service of the public. Although he had received no legal education, yet he served seven years as associate Justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Lorain county. He also represented the County in the Legislature of 1851 and 1852. He likewise filled the the office of Justice of the peace for a period of twelve years. In every position the man dignified the office, not the office the man.

His death occurred April 26, 1869, at the age of 69 years, 9 months, and 12 days.

He married Miss Lovinia Wright, December 8, 1829. Mrs. Whiton was born in Springfield Massachusetts, February 15, 1807. The following year, after her marriage, she came with her husband to Amherst. She was a woman of sterling qualities, noble and generous. The honorable position in community, so long occupied by her husband, was due in no small degree to her aid and encouragement. The generous and cheerful hospitalities of her house over which she presided went far towards securing the popularity of her husband. Her death occurred April 8, 1874, at the age of 67 years, and 4 months.

Only three children were born to this worthy pair, Agnes L. born November 1, 1835, died August 1, 1863,

Catherine Amanda, wife of M. W. Axtell, born December 24, 1839.

Joseph Lucas, born March 28 1848.

According to the March 4th, 1876 '*Amherst Free Press*', Ira Tillotson and Nathan Edson were each operating distilleries, here, sometime in the 1830s. Tax records indicate that Edson was a resident of Amherst Twp. by 1831. The later, 1879 '*History*' mentioned very little about Nathan Edson, except: “[William] Martin came to an untimely death, in October, 1830, by a singular accident. He had just come out of a well, which he, with others, was sinking on the farm of Nathan Edson, on the Oberlin road, when Edson took hold of him to engage in a friendly scuffle, the result of which was that Martin fell into the well, twenty feet deep, killing him almost instantly.”

Edson's farm was just south of 'Black River village'; and that accident coincides with his shortly-later move into Amherst Twp., although he did not stay here, long. By circa-1836, he had relocated to the Toledo, Ohio, area, where he eventually became a Lake Erie lighthouse-keeper. He died in 1869, on a western Lake Erie island; and while his son and son-in-law were attempting to transport his body to the mainland, they were drowned.

Nathan Edson's wife was Elizabeth Lyon(s), the daughter of Ralph Lyon who initially resided just west of Joseph Quigley on the Lake shore, in 1811 (but relocated to the mouth of Beaver Creek).

[The “*first Temperance Society meeting*” was held shortly after Nathan Edson moved into this Twp.:]

'*Amherst Free Press*' *history, March 4, 1876,* (continued)

Speaking of whiskey and its general use as a beverage, we are brought to the period when the temperance question began to be discussed. In the early part of the summer of 1832, Captain Stanton Sholes held the first Temperance Meeting in Amherst, at which time a Society was formed officered as fellows; President, Stanton Sholes; vice president, Samuel Strong, M. D. Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. John Quigly. The membership numbered about fifteen, mostly members in the M. E. Church. After meeting a few times, the enthusiasm of the Society appears to have declined. Much opposition was manifested against the movement, as was the case almost always, at that period. The pledge of the Society was simply to abstain from distilled spirits, allowing its members to use beer, cider and native wine, as a beverage, *ad libitum*. All pledges in those days contained the saving clause, “except as a medicine.” It required very little courage, or sacrifice, one might think, to sign such a pledge. But many deemed it far otherwise.

[That item continued with a tale about a “practical-joke” against Temperance Society member Wesley Perkins, by non-member Orlum Winton. (That same anecdote is summarized in the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History'.)]

Mormonism.

In the year 1832 or '3, Mormonism made its appearance in Amherst township. This was about four years after its promulgation in the section of its birth place. But since many of those who will read our history, are presumed to be ignorant of this bug-bear, for this is the definition of the word, (see Webster's Dictionary, last edition) we will give a brief sketch of its origin and history, before detailing its advent in Amherst.

The ostensible founder of Mormonism, was Joseph Smith Jr. In this new enterprise he possessed many of the necessary elements requisite for establishing successfully religious creeds; namely: obscurity, ignorance and superstition. Joseph the prophet, vulgarly called Joe Smith, is supposed to have come into this world without any of the mysterious disturbances of the ordered laws of nature other than attend the birth of common sinners. His father was a plain medium-sized man, without education, who gained a livelihood by doing odd jobs for his neighbors, telling fortunes, "finding things lost," and seeing with a "double sight." He had no visible physical marks to distinguish him from his fellow-men, except he was rather taller than ordinary persons, had a long nose and large mouth, and grievously afflicted with chronic laziness.

The mother of the prophet, whose maiden name was Lucy Mack, was said to belong to the "lower order" of people. She was a simple-minded, ignorant, unsettled woman, full of superstitious notions, believing in "signs" and dreams, and was of much service to her husband, Joseph Smith Sr., in divining things. This pair had their home in the little village of Sharon, Windsor county, Vermont; and here on the 23rd of December, 1805, Joseph the Prophet was born. The boy at a very tender age exhibited marked symptoms of the talents of his parents,—ignorance, superstition, and sight-seeing, and soon became expert at divining, and the use of witch-hazel in locating suitable positions for his neighbors' wells, from which occupation he acquired the title of "water-witch," in which he much delighted. It was in one of those wells located by his divining rod that he found the "mysterious peep-stone," through which he could see all things past, present, and to come.

When Joseph was ten years of age, the family with the young prophet, settled in Wayne county, near the village of Palmyra, in the State of New York, where they remained for ten years. At the end of this period the prophet was twenty years of age, and had considerably developed his talent as water-witch and sight-seer, and revealing the location of lost, strayed, or stolen cattle, goods &c.

On leaving Wayne county, the Smith family moved to the adjoining county of Ontario, taking up their abode near Manchester.

Joseph tells us that at the tender age of sixteen, he had a "visitation," warning him of the danger of losing his soul, and of the ungodly character of the organized religious institutions of his time, and while at prayer in the "bush" at the rear of his parental mansion, in Ontario county, a celestial display of fire-works illuminated the forest and the person of the prophet, and in a vision he saw two angels who brought unto him the glad news of the forgiveness of his sins, and that he was chosen by God to reveal the true religion and dispel all existing sects.

On the 23rd of September, 1823, the prayers of Joseph brought him another visit from angels, and renewed assurances of heavenly powers, and finally revealing to him that his hand should draw forth from "the hill Cumorah," the *plates of gold* whereon was inscribed, in a language known only to himself, the gospel of the true God.

On the 22nd of September, 1826, in the midst of angels and revolting devils, "with a mighty display of celestial machinery," Joseph unaccompanied, except by the "messengers," extracted from the hill Cumorah, in Manchester the home of his parents in Ontario county N. Y., "a mysterious box, containing golden plates of the thickness of tin, bound together like a book, fastened at one side by three rings, which run through the whole, forming a volume about six inches thick," upon which was engraved, in reformed Egyptian, the language of the Jews, and the writings of the Egyptians." The box also contained four precious stones, "transparent and clear as crystal--the Urim and Thummim, used by seers in ancient times —the instruments of revelation of things distant, past and future,

MORMONISM. [cont.]

From the golden plates, Joseph, by inspiration, translated the "Book of Mormon," the Bible of the Mormons, which was first published in 1830 by Pomeroy Tucker, of Ontario county, New York.

The divine authenticity of the work being doubted by unbelievers the Lord sent him witness in the persons of three disciples—David Whitmer, an obscure simple man, Martin Harris, a superstitious neighbor of the young prophet, and Oliver Cowdery, an itinerant scribe, who aided Joseph in the translation—all of whom make the solemn declaration attached to the printed copies of the Book of Mormon, as follows.

"We have seen the plates which contain the records, They were translated by the gift and power of God, for His voice hath declared it unto us, wherefore we know of a surety that the work is true; and we declare, with words of soberness, that an angel of God came down from heaven, and brought and laid before our eyes, that we beheld and saw the plates and the engraving thereon"

The account given of the origin of the golden plates, and the necessity of their discovery, as given by Smith, together with the evidence of those who saw the plates, is doubtless sufficient evidence to establish, in the minds of many, the divine origin of the Book of Mormon, and however shallow and absurd it may be, it must be acknowledged that it is but little more absurd and unnatural than the basis upon which multitudes of the race found their faith.

In the denial of the divine origin of the Book of Mormon, it is stated that in 1812, the Rev. Solomon Spalding, a Presbyterian minister, who from failing health had left the ministry, had written a romance called, *The Manuscript Found*, having its principle scenes suggested by the numerous mounds in the State of Ohio, and westward. The manuscript Mr. Spalding attempted to have printed in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, by Mr. Patterson, and others, desiring it to be prefaced as deciphered from plates dug from the earth in Ohio. But failing in this, the manuscript was left in the hands of Mr, Patterson, who kept a printing office, in which Sidney Rigdon, one of the founders of the faith, was employed. Patterson died in 1826, but the manuscript was never afterwards seen by his friends.

Mrs. Spalding, the widow of the author of *Manuscript Found*, avers that she had a complete copy of her husband's book in manuscript; and in 1825, while residing in Ontario county, New York, that Joe Smith was digging a well for a Mr. Stroud, who lived next door to her, and that the copy of the book disappeared from her trunk.

When the Book of Mormon appeared, the relatives of Patterson, the printer, and Mrs. Spalding and her relatives recognized the latter as an interpolation of *Manuscript Found*, and published all the facts; only to draw from Smith, Rigdon and their followers cries of *persecution*.

This heretical sect made its appearance in Amherst, about 1831, gathering a society that had no certain place of abode, wandering about the township; temporarily stopping where it could find free entertainment for its preachers, and collect hearers to listen to the harangues of these oily-tongued emissaries. It performed for a time the task of a scavenger to the religious community, by picking up a class of men and women that were unbalanced in judgemnt, and lacking in intelligent piety. Some 30, or 40 identified themselves with Mormonism, many of them nominal professors of religion. After gathering out of the churches and the community this uneasy class, and baptizing them into the faith of the "Latter-day" saints, the meteorous light, and its followers disappeared together. Mormonism had a mushroom's growth, and a mushroom's decay.

[As mentioned in the March 11, 1876 '*Amherst Free Press*' *history*: Amanda Barnes married Warren Smith, and they also converted to "Mormonism". (Warren was probably the son of Chileab Smith; see the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History'.) And (although not recorded in the early local-histories) the Barney family also converted --- and Edson and Royal Jr. "went west", and were prominent members. (Royal Barney Jr.'s daughter became one of the 55 "wives" of Brigham Young.)

The local followers of "Mormonism" were influenced by Parley P. Pratt and Simeon D. Carter, circa-1830 residents, here. (Carter lived near later-named "Whiskeyville"; Pratt lived a short distance from him, in Russia Twp.)

In 1832, an L.D.S. Conference was held here.]

The 1876 '*Amherst Free Press*' seems to have omitted publishing their intended item about Wesley Perkins. Here is his info from the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History':

"Wesley Perkins was born in 1805, in Orwell, Vermont, and, upon coming to Amherst [1832], opened a shop, in which for many years he pursued his trade of wagon making — also spending much time nursing the sick."

[His '1883' obit says he was also an avid local-historian :]

The Elyria Republican.

THURS. NOVEMBER 8. 1883.

WESLEY PERKINS.

The subject of this brief memoir, was of Connecticut origin, his father Wesley Perkins, at an early date, removing from that State to Vermont, where he died in 1819. Mr. W. Perkins, was born in the town of Orwell, Rutland county, Vt., May 16th, 1805, preceeding a sister just one hour. At the age of six months, he became half-orphaned by the death of his mother, and wholly orphaned at the age of fourteen. Soon after the authorities of his native town bound him as an apprentice to a gentleman by the name of Goodrich, who was a deacon in a Congregational church, and by occupation a farmer, a tanner, and also a tavernkeeper. Here Mr. Perkins remained, loyal and faithful to his legal master, till he attained the lawful age of twenty-one.

At the expiration of his apprenticeship, he left his native state, and came to Ohio in 1826, and remained till the next year, at which time he returned to Vermont. In 1828, he came back to Ohio, and took to wife Miss Orpha Snow, a resident of Windham, Portage county, O., where he dwelt till 1831, at which time he came to Amherst, and purchased a piece of land, moving his family thither the following year, 1832. From that time till 1879, a period of nearly half a century, he resided in Amherst, and became intimately acquainted with the growth of Amherst, and also with the names and history of many of its inhabitants, and able to give an intelligle report concerning the time at which many of them died, and where in the old cemetery, they were buried, though no stone marked their resting place.

Mr. Perkins was a genial companion pre-eminently social, an obliging neighber, a fast friend a kind father, and a conscientious Christian. He held for a number of years a membership in the Congregational church. In regard to the needy, he was generous, almost to a fault, dividing with them his last dollar, and last loaf, though he sometimes was unable to see where his own supplies would come from. His confidence in the Merciful Father was so great as to make him cheerful in the times of pressing necessities, and his long experience teaching him to "trust in the Lord and do good," was a promise that never failed.

Eighteen years ago the wife of Mr. Perkins died, after fifteen or more years of confinement to her bed by an incurable disease. In 1879 he went to Cleveland and found a home with his son Henry, for about three years. During the last two years he resided with his youngest son, Roswell, in Columbus, but frequently came to Amherst, in the mean time, stopping with his two sons, Ozni and James W., a month or so at a time.

For a long time he was afflicted with severe attacks of nephritis, and kindred complaints, causing a vast deal of suffering, and demanding a large amount of care and attention from his family friends. But these diseases eventually undermined his constitution and ended in death, Saturday, Oct. 27 1883, at the age of seventy-eight years, five months, and fourteen days.

His remains were brought to North Amherst and interred beside the dust of the wife of his youth, in the Amherst cemetery. An appropriate sermon was preached by Rev. Atwater, of Cleveland, from Psalm xc:10. A large congregation of his former acquaintantances were in attendance, to show their appreciation of the deceased.

C. C. P.

(Note that the June 24th, 1876 *'Amherst Free Press'* implies that it was Alvah T. Johnson who mainly assisted in preparing their 1876 'history'.) [Also, Perkins was not the "Uncle" who wrote the "*Reminiscences*" published in the 1893 Amherst 'Argus'.]

[from the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History']

" the Beldens, (M.B. and Hiram) were born in Berkshire Co., Massachusetts, and came west at the solicitation of their uncle, Capt. Stanton Sholes. Hiram came to North Amherst, (known as the [Black River*] 'corners'), in 1829, but returned home, and did not come with intention of permanent residents until 1832. He purchased lot forty in Brownhelm, but Captain Sholes made him a present of fifteen acres of land in [twp.] lot ninety-seven in Amherst, on condition that he would build and live thereon. Later he moved into the village of North Amherst. { etc. } [*- prior to 1830, "*Amherst corners*" would have been known as "*Black River corners*".]

"Orlum Winton" arrived circa-1830 (and was later a store-keeper in 'North Amherst' village). [Came from Vermilion Twp. (his father, Eli Winton had brought their family there in 1817).]

"Eli A. Turney came in 1833, from Geauga Co., Ohio."

From the year 1830 and onward, the settlement of Amherst was largely increased, business began to develope itself, and farming assumed ampler proportions.

Among the families that came in at that period, we find the names of Orlum Winton, Wesley Perkins, Eli L. Seeley, John B. Robertson, Willis Potter, the two Steele families, Homer Tyrell, and Benjamin Bivins, Of Messrs. Winton, Perkins, Potter, and Steele, we shall speak hereafter. In this number we shall confine ourself to sketches of Mr. Seeley, and Mr. Bivins.

Eli L. Seeley

was a native of Woodbury, Conn. and born June 24, 1790. In 1811, at the age of 21, he came to Ohio and staid one or two years, and then returned to Connecticut and remained till 1817, at which time he came back to Ohio, settling first in Bath, Medina county, now embraced in Summit county. Here he resided two or three years, and then left for Carlisle, Lorain county, where he built a saw mill, and also a grist mill, known as Turner's mills.

Being a carpenter and joiner by trade, he took the job of getting out the timber for the first jail in Lorain county, and while hewing a stick of timber he had the misfortune to inflict a severe wound in one of his knees, crippling him for many years, and which inconvenienced him the remainder of his days. After being crippled, in 1824 he moved to Ridgeville, and remained about nine years.

In 1834 he came to Amherst and bought a piece of land of a Mr. Traverse. Subsequently he purchased another parcel of the Hathaway heirs.

His family consisted of four sons and four daughters:-Minerva, born September 1, 1814 married E. A. Turney, and died after a long protracted illness, May 29, 1869; David M., born February 4, 1816, and died January 10, 1853; Walter, born August 31, 1818; Maryette July 12, 1821; Fanny, born June 3, 1823, and died November 14, of the same year. Morton, born April 13, 1825; Sally Ann, born May 4, 1824, and died August 16, 1828, and Eli, September 13, 1831, and died September 7, 1848.

Charlotte, the wife of Mr. Seeley, was born in Woodbury Connecticut, October 7, 1795, and died September 14, 1872, being nearly 77 years old at the time of her decease.

Benjamin Bivins,

Mr. B. came from Erie county, New York, in 1835, and settled on the farm now occupied by Charles Cotton. His wife and two children, came at the same time The elder, Lyman Bivins, resides on the farm adjoining the one purchased by his father. The other was a daughter, bright and intelligent, who met with a most tragic death, in March 1841. She in company with a young friend of her own age, was attending a select school at Amherstville, boarding with a most estimable lady, Mrs. Parsons. A little less than two weeks after taking up lodgings with Mrs. Parsons, she went on a visit to friends in Elyria and spent the night. About one o'clock in the morning, the house was discovered to be on fire, and the upper rooms were so thoroughly enveloped in smoke and fire as to render it impossible for an entrance to be made into the rooms where the poor girls were sweetly sleeping. Probably they were suffocated before the discovery of the fire. This terrible disaster was a severe shock to the families of these girls, and spread a cloud of gloom over the community in which they were known.

Mr. Bivins was held in high estimation by those who had any acquaintance with him. He was regarded as one of the few of earth's noble men—for he was a thoroughly upright and honest man.

Mr Bivins purchased his farm of Leonard Johnson who was among the earliest settlers in the township. Many of the present inhabitants of that neighborhood have distinct recollections of his many marvelous stories of hunts, and incidents of pioneer life, such as formed the staple conversation of winter evenings among the early settlers. He was honored, for a time, with the office of Justice of the Peace.

Mr. Bivins also served in the same office from 1837, to 1840. He died a few years ago, at a ripe old age, loved and lamented by all who knew him.

His wife still survives him, having filled a pilgrimage of eighty-eight years, and is now patiently waiting at the river for the summons to pass through the flood, and enter the celestial city.

[from Beers 1894 '*Biographical Record*' of Lorain County:]
"Irad Aiken (son of George), was born in 1791, in Conn.; in 1814 came to Cuyahoga Co., Ohio, where he resided until **1835**. He [then] took up a farm in the midst of the [Amherst Twp.] forest, and remained thereon until 1863, when he moved into North Amherst." { etc.}

Homer Tyrrell Esq'r.

Mr. Tyrrell was born in Lanesboro' Berkshire Co., Massachusetts, in 1806. He lived here till he arrived to manhood. In 1828 he married his present wife, Miss Mary Fox Merrimon, after which he settled in Pittsfield in the same county.

Here he employed himself in farming, plowing and digging among the rocks, sowing and planting in a sterile soil, that gave in return but an indifferent reward for the labor expended. Fully comprehending the obstacles that would likely hinder him from obtaining more than a bare subsistence while living in old Berkshire, he wisely concluded to strike his tent, and search for a more favorable and desirable place for his future home.

Having settled the question of removal and selecting Ohio for his future dwelling place, taking his wife and two children, and gathering up his household effects, he turned his back upon old Berkshire, and directed his course toward the setting sun.

The facilities for traveling westward, at that period, were much better than those offered the first settlers from Berkshire. The Erie Canal, which connected the waters of the Hudson with lake Erie, was finished, and amply furnished with boats, so that the tedious process of travelling with ox and horse teams, had given place to a through communication by water, and the emigrant was able to travel with comparative ease.

Coming to Albany, Mr. T[illegible]rell embarked on board a boat bound for Buffalo. This great high-way at that period was in its zenith of prosperity. Scores of packet boats for passengers only, ran night and day, so that a trip between the termini was made in about four days.

Still this mode of travel had its discomforts and disadvantages. The canal ran through a country at that time but partially cleared, passing through swamps reeking with malaria, and producing ague and fever, and other diseases. The truth of this Mr. Tyrrell was made aware of before he reached Buffalo. His eldest daughter, now Mrs. Milo Harris, at that time about six years old, was seriously attacked with disease, with no medical aid at hand. Sick as she was they were obliged to watch the patient with anxious solicitude till Buffalo was reached. Here they were directed by their humane captain to the office of a physician, where medical treatment was received.

Soon as the family was in condition for journeying it embarked on a steamer bound for Cleveland. Arriving at that port, Mr. T. leaving his wife and daughter with a cousin in Geauga county, he came on to Amherst and located fifty acres of land, being the north west corner of lot No. 56, on which he located and built himself a dwelling. He afterwards purchased forty-six acres more. He cleared seventy-five acres of this farm, and lived on it for thirty years.

Mr. Tyrrell came to Amherst in the early part of June 1835. In 1865 he sold his farm and came to the village of North Amherst and purchased a house and lot on the corner of Cleveland and Spring streets, where he resided till 1875 and then sold out and removed to Cleveland.

Mr. T. had three daughters and one son, namely: Mary T., born July 1, 1830; Hannah M., wife of A. A. Axtell, born October 22, 1833; George N., born April 26, 1837; and Lucia L., wife of L. A. Gray, of Portland Me., born Feb. 18, 1839.

John B. Robertson.

The next family we notice in our history of early settlers is that of John B. Robertson, who was somewhat conspicuous in the township for nearly forty years. As a political partisan he was more or less identified with the history and changes of the township for many years, and was a man of considerable influence.

Mr. Robertson was born in Ballston, Saratoga county N. Y., Dec. 26, 1797. About the time of his majority he left Saratoga, and went to Berkshire county, Massachusetts, where he married and remained for a time. In 1825, he came to Ohio, first stopping at Rockport, Cuyahoga county. He afterwards lived, we believe, in Elyria. In 1835, he came to Amherst, and purchasing a piece of land on Middle Ridge, he built himself a home and resided there till the closing day of life, which occurred March 7, 1875, at the age of 77 years, 3 months, and 11 days.

Mr. Robertson was several times honored by his party friends with a number of important offices of trust. He was elected three times to the office of Justice of the Peace, two of which he served the full term, and the third resigned after one year.

He was elected to the Legislature for 1851-2. Being in Nebraska in 1856, and as there was a chance for a small constituency to elect a member of the first Legislature, he was unanimously chosen to that body at its first session. We believe Mr. R. never regarded this promotion as expressive of any extraordinary popularity on his part. The constituency was by no means large.

In 1857, under the administration of James Buchanan, he was appointed Indian Agent for the Omaha Indians, which Agency he retained up to 1859, then came home and retired to private life.

North Amherst Baptist Church.

The history of this church dates back to the winter of 1853. Luther Owen and wife moved from Avon to Amherst in the spring of 1853, both of whom were members of the church in Avon. The Rev. G. W. Allen, residing at that time on Middle Ridge, was solicited by Mr. Owen to preach occasionally in this village. Application was made for the use of the M. E. Church, which was cheerfully granted. This was in December, 1853. At the close of Mr. Allen's first sermon, the Society made a formal tender of their house, when not in use, to be used by the Baptists. In the course of a few weeks, Mr. Allen, aided by Rev. S. Wadsworth, held a series of meetings which resulted in the conversion of a goodly number who connected themselves with the churches in the village.

At the close of these meetings, strong desires were expressed by such as held to Baptist sentiments, for church fellowship. Accordingly notice was given of an intention to form a Baptist church. Members in the immediate vicinity holding letters of dismission from Baptist churches, assembled in the Methodist church on Feb. 8, 1854, and were organized into a body to be known as "The Regular Baptist Church of North Amherst." The constituents were, Rev. G. W. Allen, Lewis R. Cook, Luther Owen, Benjamin Redfern, Luther Bonner, A. F. Wattles, Reuben Allen, Phebe A. Bonner, Emeline Cook, Ruth Crocker, Elizabeth A. Blanchett, Eliza Bonner, Mary Wilford, Lucy A. Barney, Nancy Owen, Hannah O. Allen and Pearly Allen.

L. Owen and L. Bonner were elected deacons, and L. R. Cook was chosen Church Clerk, which office he held for eleven years. Mr. Owen held the office of deacon the same length of time; but Mr. Bonner died about one year after his election.

The first baptisms were administered, March 12, of the same year, when Abigail Wattles. Bliss Remington, Wm. Wilkinson, Anna Medburn, Anna M. Foster and Emily Cook, were baptized into the fellowship of the church.

The Methodist Society not finding it convenient for the Baptists to occupy their house any longer, they removed their meetings to the old school-house, now the Town Hall where they continued to meet until the erection of their present place of worship.

On the 26, of February, 1856, the Church and Society appointed a committee, consisting of L. Owen, J. Pope, H. Remington, Eben Moore and L. R. Cook, to raise funds, and superintend the erection of a place of worship. The membership of the church was small, and in limited circumstances, and an eligible site was difficult to obtain. But they were not disheartened. They felt the importance of possessing a place of worship. Nights were spent in workfulness, tears and prayer, and a special day was spent in prayer for aid and wisdom from God.

Thus disciplined and prepared for labor and sacrifice, they entered on the work. After obtaining an outside subscription of about $300, the members who were property holders voluntarily agreed to tax themselves one fifteenth of the market valuation of their estates, and by this means, raised two thousand dollars. Such of them as had no taxable property, gave of their daily earnings towards building the house. The lady members, without the aid of fairs, nobly used their needles and furnished available means

An eligible site was providentially secured from the Cleveland and Toledo railroad Co., for fifty dollars. Funds and a site secured, and much of the building material during the winter of 1855—6, the house was commenced in the early part of spring under the energetic superintendence of Mr. L. R. Cook, and was finished and dedicated in December of the same year, without a dollar of indebtedness.

Evangelical Association.

The above name is the only one that this sect acknowledges. But in this vicinity the membership is known by different appellations. Sometimes they are spoken of as German Methodists, at other times as Albrights; neither of which is used in a sense of reproach. Still they never accepted either, but from the beginning they adopted, and have ever since retained the name of *Evangelical Association*. There are several churches of this denomination within the radius of ten miles of North Amherst, and are characterized for their orderly lives, earnest zeal for living piety, and the conversion of unregenerated men.

This church in North Amherst originated with a small company of members who went out from the German Reform Church in Amherst. Some fifteen or sixteen persons, men and women, (being convinced that the true membership of a Christian church are only such as have been born of the Holy Spirit, and give evidence by personal piety that they are converted,) separated themselves from their former church. There were seven or eight men, and the same number of women, who banded themselves together in a class, They met, for a time, in an upper room of Christian Brandau's house, on North Main Street. In this upper room the infant church opened a Sunday School, which in a short time numbered over a hundred scholars.

The church was organized in 1861. Their assemblies, at length, becoming too large to be accommodated in that upper room, the Town Hall was obtained as a place in which to worship, until a more commodious place could be provided. The church continued to meet in the Hall for two or more years.

In 1864, the Association was fortunate enough to purchase a church edifice in Brownhelm, belonging to the Baptists, who had erected it, but unfortunately for them they had been unable to finish. The building was taken down, brought to Amherst, and set up. It was finished, furnished and dedicated during that year, and occupied by them ever since.

The Society has had considerable prosperity, receiving annually additions to their membership, so that the church now numbers nearly one hundred communicants.

The following are the names of their preachers who have had the oversight of the church, arranged in the order of settlement. Revs. Leonard Lider, John Waltz, Charles Ehrhart, Joseph Pontius, Frederick Frech, I. Kopp, Albert Wehr, Gotlieb Henry, John Honecker, Theodore Luke, and — Braun.

Mr. Pontius was a native of Pennsylvania, all the others were born and educated in Germany. These ministers were men of piety, faithful in their work, making full proof of their ministry. Mr. Pontius was twice assigned to this field of labor.

The Quarries of Amherst.

Amherst Sand Stone abounds in many portions of the township. It not only shows itself in ridges, but is imbedded below the surface to depth not yet ascertained. Forty years ago its value was very little known. The rugged, unsightly ridges where it cropped out in ragged forms, were considered serious blemishes and drawbacks to the farms on which they were located, diminishing the value of those lands in proportion to the area covered by them. Their owners would have considered themselves fortunate to have disposed of them at a price per acre which has since been paid for less than fifty cubic feet of stone obtained from them.

The ridges were covered with an inferior growth of timber, and the soil was too stony to be suitable for cultivation. They seemed to be of no practical use whatever, except as a connecting medium by which the earth could be held together. For nearly a quarter of a century after the lands were purchased, these quarries reposed in all their primal glory, being simply haunts for rabbits, woodchucks and rattlesnakes.

But about thirty years ago, a new era dawned upon the quarries. Here and there was one who began to conclude that there were qualities belonging to the stone that might be used to a good advantage. Its grit was discovered to be of an excellent quality, suitable for grindstones, that could do the work of grinding more expeditiously and satisfactory than any other then in market. With these views before them, a few stone cutters with mallet and chisel in hand began chipping away at a rock, and shaping it into the form of a modern grindstone, yet having little of the symmetry and beauty of those now manufactured at these quarries. Then they were sent abroad to be tested; but as a market had to be created, a few hundred tons were enough to supply the demand in any single year.

As for block-stone, there was no demand. The stone had been but little tested for building purposes, and consequently its excellent qualities were as yet unknown, and the facilities for marketing it were few and disadvantageous. The only medium of transportation was by lake navigation, and the nearest for shipping was the mouth of Black River a distance from six to eight miles over bad roads. The expenses of hauling, and the low prices obtained for the stone when marketed, left a very small margin for the shippers. To this, add the lack of experienced quarrymen, and the absence of approved machinery for raising and fitting the stone for use, and we can readily understand reasons for the slow development of the Amherst quarries.

About the first block stone shipped from this vicinity, was taken from Brownhelm quarry, now owned and worked by Worthington Bros., but at that time in the possession of Henry Warner. The stone was shipped from Vermillion by boat to Toronto. Here the good qualities of the rock were tested by Mr. Worthington, sen., and its reputation thoroughly established. From that date, men of capital, energy and enterprise, took hold of the business, and a growing trade was gradually built up, and has steadily increased in magnitude and dimensions, till it has reached its present gigantic proportions. The excellency of Amherst Sand Stone has become widely known in every western city and town of importance in the eastern and western States, and the Canadas. Many of the most beautiful and costly public buildings, and private residences in New York, Albany, Boston, Hartford, New Haven, Chicago, Jackson, Lansing and Detroit, were built wholly, or in part, of the Amherst Sand Stone; while in almost every manufacturing establishment in the United States, where a grind stone is used are found those manufactured in Amherst.

That item seems to be the final installment of that 'history' series. Note that most of the subsequent local-histories utilized that '*Amherst Free Press*' series as a 'source' (and therefore, also duplicated many of the same errors which originated in it).

[and lastly, from the 1879 Williams Brothers 'History':]

NORTH AMHERST VILLAGE.

"Early in the history of Amherst township, the nucleus for a village was formed upon the north ridge, about a mile northwest of the center of the township. This settlement — the embryo village of North Amherst — was known for many years as "the corners". Judge Josiah Harris had quite a tract of land here, and he laid out a portion of it in lots, and founded the village of 'Amherstville'."

But, in truth, official documents (from circa-1836, etc.) specifically refer to the village as '*Amherst corners*' (not merely "the" corners). And, although the first known plat-map of the village was not officially filed until 1836 --- however, in the year 1832, the village had already been laid out into individual 'lots', to some degree. { see item below }

(It is perhaps even possible that Harris, et.al., had initially 'platted' the village circa-1822, when many of the local settlements were competing to be the new "county-seat" of Lorain County. But, apparently, it was a decade later when these small settlements finally became populated enough to actually submit the official village plat-maps to the County.)

Here is how visitor/author D. Griffiths, Jr., described the village of Amherst Corners when he passed through it, in July of 1832:

" I had received an invitation some weeks before, to attend the [July 4] Meetings at B.[Brownhelm Twp.] about ten miles from hence [Sheffield Twp.]. Accordingly I set out on the morning of that proud day [July 4] solo; forded the Black river at the turn which leads to A.[Amherst]; and after travelling through woods for about five miles ---- busily employed all the way in beating off the blood-thirsty flies from my horse's ears, and the musquitoes from my own ---- I reached A. [Amherst corners]; a beautiful little hamlet, consisting of a tavern, store, schoolhouse, and some half dozen white frame dwelling-houses -- enclosing an area more like an English Village Green, than anything I have seen in America. In the midst of this Green, the Liberty Pole was erected all ready, surmounted with a blue pennon floating in the breeze. A booth also was set up, covered with green branches -- under the shade of which, the inhabitants of that neighbourhood who had not joined the [Temperance, or] 'Cold-water Society' (as they call it by way of contempt), were assembling to carouse, and speechify on the blessings of Liberty and Independence"... …." I passed through the [village] Green; and, descending a hill on the other side --- out of which flows a stream of the purest water that never fails --- I crossed the creek at the bottom, and after a few more miles of wood[s], arrived at B.[Brownhelm]

[source: *TWO YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE NEW SETTLEMENTS OF OHIO, North America: WITH DIRECTIONS TO EMIGRANTS.* by D. GRIFFITHS; LONDON: 1835. (pages 93-95)]

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